

Brunswick Recycling & Sustainability Committee Meeting
April 27th, 2021
Meeting via Zoom 5.00 – 7.00pm

Members present: Jamie Ecker (chair), Jenn Hicks (vice-chair), Harry Hopcroft, Steve Weems, Stephen Wood, Kay Mann, Chrissy Adamowicz, Dieuwke Zolas, Elise Hocking (Bowdoin college), Margaret Chingos (BHS).

Staff present: Jay Astle (Public Works Director), John Eldridge (Town Manager), Matt Panfill (Director Planning & Development)

Guests: Bill Good

Call to order: by the chair at 5.02pm

Introduction made by all members of the R&S committee.

Introduction and review of the agenda by the chair.

Motion: to approve minutes March 23rd, 2021, moved by Steve Weems, 2nd by Stephen Wood

Discussion: correct recycle to recycling in 3 places.

Change under staff update Jay Astle: item #2.

- Starting April 1st, 2021, trash collected curbside will be taken to West Bath by Casella, trash not collected curbside needs to be taken to the transfer station in West Bath. The facility is open to the general public, it is primarily a commercial facility, West Bath and Brunswick residents.

Motion: to approve minutes March 23rd, 2021, moved as amended by Steve Weems, 2nd by Stephen Wood.

Staff update: Jay Astle

- Draft of contract with Ecomaine received by the Town of Brunswick
- Price proposal from Casella for hauling the trash received 1 hour ago
- HHW on April 24th, 2021 in Brunswick. All 240 spots taken and 423 units of HHW collected. This was the 1st of the 2 HHW collection dates this year, next one will be Oct 9th, 2021
- Summer intern positions still tied up in budget discussions

Action: continued discussion about the budget and contracts with ecomaine and Casella.

Organics sub-committee report: by Chrissy Adamowicz (chair)

- Maine DEP grant application filed
- Need to track organic diversion
- Funding for intern needed thru grant
- 3 prong approach of organic plan explained to Elise and Margaret.
- Prediction is to divert 200 tons of food waste per year.
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Action: Jay Astle to work on Intern job description.

Solar sub-committee: Steve Weems (chair)

- Town of Brunswick received 3 unsolicited solar proposals.
- 10 days ago a meeting took place between Revision and the Town of Brunswick.
- Crystal Spring Farm has extended their solar farm capacity from 78 to 100 kilowatts. Project almost completed.

Action:

- meeting pending with school superintendent Phil Potenziano about solar. BHS and Kate Furbish school are wired to have their own set of solar panels.
- Steve Weems to provide numbers of solar panels at private business and home owners at next meeting
- Margaret (BHS) mentioned Trent Hutchinson from the school department met with Revision himself and questions are we doing double work? Need for student of BHS to become part of the solar sub-committee?
- On Thursday April 29th, 2021 a meeting with Harry Hopcroft, Steve Weems, Jamie Ecker with the school superintendent, facility manager, finance manager to discuss collaboration between the schools, town and renewable energy

Education sub-committee: Harry Hopcroft (chair)

- Committee is in holding pattern for now until transition to ecomaine takes place. Ecomaine has a robust education program
- Need for intern to help out this summer with implementation of tagging recycle bins
- Need for intern with the organics waste education.

Action:

- continued follow up with ecomaine once contract starts about education opportunities
- Harry to follow-up with Curtis library about educational opportunities

Street light committee: Chrissy Adamowicz

- Wrapping up of street light policy at last meeting April 15th, 2021
- Technical information about lights discussed
- Importance of dark skies yet keeping pedestrian safety in mind

Action:

- Street light policy ready to go to Town council
- Purchase of street lights from CMP, currently rented
- Purchase of street lamps
- No meeting in May 2021

Sustainability planning in Brunswick: guest speaker Matt Panfill.

- Slide show provided with sustainability ideas
- Presently the Planning Department is working on updating the Comprehensive Plan from 2008 from the Town of Brunswick
- <https://planbrunswick.org>

- Questions brought forward about the Landing and car dependence versus bike and pedestrian friendly
- Town of Brunswick does not have a Sustainability Director.
- Email Matt Panfill at: mpanfill@brunswickme.org

Action: Jamie Ecker (chair) to follow up with Matt Panfill tomorrow April 28th, 2021 and discuss the option of a sub-committee to interface the R&S committee with the Plan Brunswick department.

Other business and announcements:

Chrissy mentioned, the Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging bill that the Town of Brunswick supports with the Recycling Reform Municipal Resolution, will have a public hearing on May 10, 2021 at 9:00 am, held by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Public comments: none

Meeting adjourned: motion by Jamie Ecker, 2nd by Stephen Wood. Meeting ended 6.58pm.