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**MINUTES - FINAL**  
**TOWN OF BRUNSWICK RECYCLING & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**  
**24 MAY 2022**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jamie Ecker at 5:03 PM.

**Members present:** Rep. Poppy Arford, Jamie Ecker (Chair), Jennifer Hicks (Secretary), Harry Hopcroft, Thomas Rumpf, Steve Weems (Vice Chairman), Stephen Wood

**Town personnel present:** Chrissy Adamowitz (Department of Economic Development), Jay Astle (Public Works Director), Eliza Blood (Organics Recycling Coordinator), Kathy Wilson (Town Councilor), Bina Skordas, (Environmental Planner)

**Public present:** Bill Good

**Introductions of Committee Members and Town Personnel:** Personal introduction provided by each person in attendance.

**Meeting Minutes from April 26, 2022:** Motion to approve: Steve Weems, 2nd Steve Wood. Unanimous

**Meeting Time and Venue for Monthly Committee Meetings:**

Per request at the April meeting, Jay Astle and Jamie Ecker looked at location options for in person meetings at the Town Hall. Two options were presented:

- a) Room 206 (smaller meeting room) on the 4th Tuesday with great flexibility on time
- b) Council Chambers on the 4th Tuesday, but we must end the meeting by 6:30 PM.

Either option would require someone to manage the recording and Zoom software. Also, each provides an option for members to attend online if necessary.

**Decision:** Committee will hold meeting in person in the Council Chamber on the 4th Tuesday of each month 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

**Proposed changes to the Town Council's Appointments Committee**

Town council proposed ways to raise profiles of town committees to showcase work and encourage more residents to be involved in committees. Appointments committee meets: June 6

**Action:** Steve Weems to check in with Councilmember Watson about details

**Proposed Sub-Committees & Assignments – Jamie Ecker and Steve Weems**

Proposal to consolidate subcommittees from four to three to reflect the priorities of the overall committee. Each committee would have a minimum of three people, each member would serve on at least one and if desired, audit another committee. The committee proposed are:

1. Recycling & Waste Management: Stephen Wood (chair), Jamie Ecker
2. Sustainability & Energy: Steve Weems (chair), Poppy Arford, Tom Rumpf
3. Education & Communication: Harry Hopcroft (chair), Jenn Hicks

Poppy Arford asked about the Education and Communication sub committee's role in website design and if there is a budget available for the committee, Jay explains that no committee has access to make changes to the website but can make suggestions. There is no budget for the committee but funds can be found for committee work if appropriate.

Steve Weems explains that the subcommittees would have to develop their own mission statement. Education and Communication subcommittee's work would focus on addressing challenges faced around promotion of matters addressed by the committee and having access to channels of communication to residents.

**Motion** Accept the proposed subcommittee structure: Jenn Hicks moves, 2nd by Tom Rumpf. Unanimous vote in favor of motion.

### **Solid Waste Update – Steve Weems, Jay Astle**

Report from Jay Astle: Still moving ahead with a July 1 start date of a 10 year agreement with ecomaine. Not signed yet until agreement with Casella is done, Still hammering out details with Casella (scope of service, etc). Town budget: Approved week and a half ago including ecomaine/Casella costs and Recycling Intern for the next fiscal year.

### **Organics Subcommittee Report - Eliza Blood, Town of Brunswick Recycling Coordinator**

Update on the implementation of DEP waste diversion grant:

- Tabling at Biodiversity Event at library this past weekend
  - Distributed organics recycling survey
  - Smaller turn out of residents than expected
- Upcoming tabling events will provide additional opportunities to engage with Brunswick residents
- Survey is online...54 responses so far
- Organics recycling presentation recording will be uploaded and publicly availability very soon
- Kitchen caddies have arrived

**Action:** Education subcommittee works with Eliza to develop plan to promote survey, organics recycling information, and caddies/composters

### **Sustainability & Energy Subcommittee Report - Steve Weems**

Focus of subcommittee energy efficiency, access to clean/renewable sources of power. fills the need for a town addressing energy sustainability.Tasks:

- Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory for entire town
- Launch technical and educational service to introduce town residents to ways to reduce their carbon footprint
- Establish a Municipal Utility District (midcoast utility district already exists)
  - State initiated and operated which secures loans for the MUD
  - There would be a Brunswick-based operation

### **Comprehensive Plan Update – Bina Skordas**

Bina comes from a conservation background and wants to apply experience from past work to support goals that are similar to committee's work and apply them to comp plan.

Comp Plan process is now developing an inventory (also called existing conditions). There will be 15 areas of focus including climate change. Will work with the committee to make sure there is alignment as programs are developed.

- Will apply for state Community Resilience Partnership Community Action Grants (for municipalities and tribes) in August.

### **Other Business:**

Chrissy Adamowcz, who works for the Town Economic Development department focused on finding funding for sustainable redevelopment initiatives, announces a town sustainability website:

- Greenlighted by Town Manager
- Will be a space to communicate with residents about the town's sustainability efforts.
- Eliza, Bina, and Chrissy will work together to build this site and will keep committee apprised

**Action:** Jamie to add Chrissy on notification list for committee

**Public Comment:**

Bill Good comments that the meeting was interesting.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** Steve Weems moves to adjourn, Poppy Arford seconds. Unanimously voted in favor

**Adjournment - 6:26 PM**