

Brunswick Sustainability Committee Meeting May 26, 2020
Meeting via Zoom: 4:30-6:30

Members Present: Harry Hopcroft, Steve Weems, Dieuwke Zolas, Steve Wood, Kay Mann, Chrissy Adamowicz, Marie Caspard, Jenn Hicks (joined at 5:15)

Not Present: Jamie Ecker

Staff Present: Jay Astle (Public Works Director), John Eldridge (Town Manager)

Motion to approved all three minutes (Feb 25, April 29, May 9) by Kay, seconded by Harry, unanimously approved

Discussion: minutes to be simplified based on the model the Town of Brunswick uses in the future

Agenda item 2a: Summarize outcomes of May 18th Town Council Meeting

Steve Weems, Jenn Hicks & Jamie were present for the Town Council meeting

Comments by Steve Weems & John Eldridge: Council discussed all 3 items

Action: Council adopted the short-term solid-waste management plan, on 9-0 vote

Action: Council voted 9-0 to not move forward with 25\$ bag-tag fee program recommendation or landfilling recycling, but did accept removing glass from Brunswick recycling program

Glass is about 10% of recycling stream, but it may be challenging to get compliance by July 1

\$120/ton to recycle, \$80/ton to landfill

Action: Council reinstated requirement to pay for blue recycling bags as of June 1, 2020, voted 9-0

Casella did provide ACR (average commodity revenue): **worst items** (most expensive to dispose of) were glass, paper and residue (12% by weight of the waste stream)

ACR is variable by commodity prices

Processing fee can't be offset by commodities market pricing

Contract with Casella expires Jun 31

Agenda item 2b/c: Development of subcommittees identified in the Solid Waste Reduction and Management Plan framework

Three subcommittees formed: **implementation** (Jamie, Jenn, Steve Weems, Jay), **Public education, Organics diversion & Composting**

Jay: Casella contract states they are willing to participate in education (meetings, presentations)

John: we need to have a frank conversation about whose role is what (town staff vs. committee members). The town itself would need to make a grant request.

Jay clarified that Town staff would do the negotiation
Committee would provide an advisory role only,
Sustainability Committee can ahead on public education planning, but not
commit the town without approval from the Council
There is \$500 in the proposed budget as recycling advertising for FY20/21 on
public education. Not used in recent years.

Jay: **recycling internship** role is currently **cut** as part of the newly proposed
Town budget.

Education subcommittee: Kay, Dieuwke, Harry, Steve Wood should meet together
for an education proposal, committee signs off on it, then staff member will bring
it to the Town Council

Organics subcommittee: Jenn, Marie, Chrissy, Jamie

Implementation subcommittee: Jamie, Jenn, Steve Weems

Brainstorming ideas for subcommittees

Course through Midcoast Senior College that can be rebroadcast other places
Facebook posts, posters, flyers (possibly Included with other mailings), Town website
Newspaper ads and stories, flyer in Blue Bag packages
Refrigerator magnets, curbside auditing, with tags for bins with improper material in them
USDA or other grants to fund initiatives
Promote bottle redemption to remove more glass from the waste stream
Townwide composting pickup
Library and other community groups, e-newsletter
Central drop-off location for glass and/or composting. If you can get the glass separated by
color, then it's much more valuable.
Better product labelling for recycling by producers and resellers

Discussion of subcommittee meeting formats:

Can meet in person spread out; subcommittee can't make decisions without whole committee
discussion and vote

Action: Subcommittees will plan to meet before the next committee meeting on to start
developing frameworks for their areas.

Action: Next meeting June 23, 2020 at 4:30-6:30 via Zoom, unless otherwise noted.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:32.