

**Brunswick Recycling & Sustainability Committee Meeting**  
**June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**  
**Meeting via Zoom 5.00pm – 7.00pm**

**Members present:** Jamie Ecker (chair), Harry Hopcroft, Steve Weems, Stephen Wood, Kay Mann, Chrissy Adamowicz, Dieuwke Zolas, Elise Hocking (Bowdoin college)

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

**Guests:** Bill Good (public)

**Call to order:** by the chair at 5.03pm

**Introduction made by all members and staff of the R&S committee**

**Pre-review of the agenda by the chair.**

**Motion:** to approve minutes May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, moved by Harry Hopcroft, 2nd by Kay Mann  
Unanimously approved.

**Staff update:** Jay Astle

- Brunswick has been awarded a grant, applied for by the organics sub-committee. Details to be reviewed by Jay Astle.
- Solid Waste still working towards a plan for the processing of trash by ecomaine and hauling by Casella. Progress being made. July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 onward, continue with present Casella contract for now.
- Jay reviewed the possible meeting format for the R&S committee. No opening in the schedule for the Council room for the R&S committee to meet. Governor Mills signed a bill today which allows continued remote meetings.

**Action:**

- Discussion for the R&S committee to meet in person or to continue remotely tabled for July and August. To be revisited in September.

**Organics sub-committee meeting report:** Jamie Ecker

- Position for intern with 3-4 candidates applying and to be discussed at next sub-committee meeting
- Jamie met with the School Superintendent for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time.

**Action:**

- Organics sub-committee to meet again with the school Superintendent office at later date about a possible organics drop-off spot at one of the schools. Jay Astle to be involved in this meeting with discussion about the intern position involvement.
- sub-committee to meet, discuss grant details and move forward with hiring an intern.

**Solar sub-committee:** Steve Weems (chair)

- Steve reviewed the 3 basic solar options: Long term (20 years) Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for an off-site, third-party project, short term Subscription Agreement with an off-site solar developer, and an on-site project at one or more Brunswick town or school locations.
- Municipal and school departments moving forward with solar initiatives.
- Town and school electricity cost about \$500,000 a year. Diverting 70% of total electricity usage to solar will save the Town and Schools about \$70,000 to \$80,000 a year and total a 1.6 million savings over 20 years contract.
- Zero capital output for start of solar project in Town and schools.
- July possible votes by Town Council and School Board on solar projects for Town and Schools.

**Education sub-committee:** Harry Hopcroft (chair)

- Discussion about a presentation by Keisha Payson, associate director of sustainability from Bowdoin college. Elise has made arrangements for a presentation at the July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 R&S meeting. To be presented are waste management and energy policies at Bowdoin. Request was made to add a possible initiative to have Bowdoin College and the Town of Brunswick work together and have Keisha present Bowdoin College sustainability efforts.
- Harry and Stephen Wood continue their Master recycle program at ecomaine.
- Harry mentioned putting an index archive together by recycling topic.

**Relevant State legislation update:**

- Update by Chrissy on The Extended Producer Responsibility Bill which was passed by the House and the Senate in Augusta recently. Maine being the 1<sup>st</sup> one in the country. A fiscal note is attached to the bill for funding the law which needs to be approved by the Appropriation Committee and voted on by the House and the Senate. The bill needs to be signed by Governor Mills after.
- The Pine Tree Amendment from the R&S committee May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 was approved by the Town Council. The bill LD489, section 25 did not pass to be amended to the Maine Constitution. Proponents in the House and the Senate continue to work towards a 2/3 majority.
- Steve Weems provided an update on the legislation in Augusta about solar energy and CMP.

**School Department update:**

- See prior note

**Action:**

- Next meeting with the superintendent and the facility manager to discuss organic recycling planned for September, 2021.

**Other business:**

- Report given by Dieuwke on annual meeting ecomaine June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in Portland. Attended by Stephen Wood and Dieuwke Zolas.
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**Action:** Jamie to meet with Jenn Hicks about the storage of R&S records on Google Drive.

**Public Comments:** none

**Meeting adjourned:** motion by Chrissy Adamowicz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stephen Wood at 6.39pm.