

**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, Jenn Hicks, Marie Caspard (Joined at 4:50)

**Staff Present:** Jay Astle (Public Works Director)

**One member** of the public joined by telephone

**Meeting** called to order at 4:34

**Agenda Item 1 -- Motion** to approve minutes of May 26, 2020

**Discussion:** Jamie found factual errors in the discussions. Expected to clear those up during tonight's discussion. Motion tables until the end of the meeting.

**Agenda Item 2: Updates From Staff (Jay)**

Municipal Budget passed Town Council last Monday.

Curbside recycling unchanged except to eliminate glass

Glass to go into Trash beginning July 6

Trash collection itself unchanged

Jay's budget loses the requested intern for recycling

Modifications to Casella's contract

Allows for change to a different landfill after ours closes next April

Trash then to be hauled to West Bath, vice Graham Road.

Landfill

Still working with the State on Graham Rd infrastructure post-closure

Future of Blue Bags uncertain

Revenue specified for landfill closure, so won't go there after closure is done

Excellent way to promote more recycling, so maybe re-direct the funds in that direction

**Action Item:** R&S Committee to make recommendations for Blue Bags

### **Agenda Item 3: Education Subcommittee Report (Kay)**

Jenn has set up a facebook page for the Sustainability Committee, which she shared with John Eldridge & Jay Astle.

Kay reviewed the Public Works portion of the Brunswick landfill: lacking recycling facts, non-recyclable items list contains no graphics and could be rendered more user-friendly.

Kay shared recycling infographics created by Margaret, a student at Brunswick Highschool. Margaret has also offered assistance with video editing and production.

There is no person specifically involved with town website development. It is developed by CivicPlus. It has its own content management system.

Chrissy suggests grants are available to augment the \$500 in the town budget

Jay says we can work with him to implement our Education Plan. No further

Town Council approval needed

Suggestions for Water & Sewer bills for joint mailings

**Action Item:** Subcommittee to update report with new suggestions for next regular meeting

### **Agenda Item 4: Compost/Organics Diversion Subcommittee, Interim Report/Update (Chrissy)**

Looking at the efforts of other towns

Taking a 3-pronged approach

Committee agrees, by consensus, that we should proceed with all three

Industry Road drop-off with Agri-cycle is a promising location. This is located next to the Public Works offices and could be lightly monitored by Public Works staff. However, Jay won't have a way to limit dropping off excessive quantities. Jay would need to look at financing but would be open to sponsor the project.

Exeter Agri-energy allows for plastic and has some tolerance for contamination, whereas other organics providers do not.

Chrissy had a conversation with Brunswick-Topsham land trust to site a drop-off location at the Community Gardens. They would be open to developing it but have some concerns about volunteer management.

Mark King from ME DEP has shared there's a second round of grants due in September for any range of recycling or waste reduction initiatives. Kennebunk has purchased home-composting bins and Lisbon set up a drop off center using this grant.

Marie has had a conversation with Keisha Payson at Bowdoin college, who is open to expanding their composting site to Brunswick community members by adding totes, financed by the municipality.

**Action Item:** Asking for feedback on proposed processes

Good information from Bath on success of their drop-off program

Minimal problems

**Action Item:** Jamie to forward info on potential grants for Committee to consider

**Agenda Item 5: Short-Term Waste Management Plan, Interim Report/Update (S. Weems)**

Steve noted this was covered in earlier discussions, so item was deferred to later meeting

**No public comments offered**

**Agenda Item 7: Other Business**

Corrections to Minutes of May 26, 2020

Glass now costs \$180 - \$200 per ton to process vs \$80 to landfill

Processing fees are offset by commodity revenues

Some recent increases seen in commodities revenues

**Action Item:** Continue to table the motion to approve until corrections are made, then approve at the next meeting.

**Action Item:** Next meeting July 21, 2020 at 4:30 – 6:30 via Zoom

**Meeting adjourned at 6:39.**