

**MINUTES - FINAL**  
**TOWN OF BRUNSWICK RECYCLING & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE**  
**Council Chambers - Brunswick Town Hall**  
**28 June 2022**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jamie Ecker at 4:30 PM.

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

**Town personnel present:** Jay Astle (Public Works Director), Eliza Blood (Organics Recycling Coordinator), Steve Walker (Town Council Liason)

**Public present:** Bill Good

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

**Meeting Minutes from May 24, 2022:** Motion to approve: Weems, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rumpf. Unanimously approved.

**Upcoming July 6th Joint Mtg for ME Climate Resilience Grant:**

**Solid Waste Updates - Jay Astle**

Jay reported that the ecomaine and Casella (hauling) agreements are almost done with minor details outstanding in each. He does not expect anything to prevent final execution very soon.

Jay suggested that the Committee think about key message points to explain the public the "Swap" that will occur. Steve Weems made the point that such points should be very simple since explaining solid waste and recycling contract details can quickly get complicated.

**Action:** Jamie, Harry and Stephen W are going to work up the simple bullet point for circulation and review.

**Ecomaine – Potential Next Steps, Discussion**

Harry Hopcroft has been in casual communication with the company, but doesn't know what exactly they will be providing us yet so hasn't asked for anything in specific. We need a single point of contact from the R&S Committee, and the Education subcommittee is a logical choice.

Jay Astle suggests that the committee be proactive since the town has a unique arrangement (trash swap).

Tom Rumpf asked staff if the new Casella agreement includes any disincentive or warnings if Casella provides ecomaine excessively contaminated material. Jay A indicated that there are protections for the Town in the Casella agreement, but did not elaborate further given that the agreement is not finalized.

**Action:** Develop ad hoc group consisting of Harry, Stephen, and Jay to contact ecomaine to set up a time to discuss what information residents will need to have about the town's solid waste management.

### **Organics Initiative, Execution Update - Eliza Blood**

Goals of the effort: Everyone was reminded that the original grant intent is to double the amount of residential organic waste diverted to gain 30% of all households participating (from baseline of 15% estimated pre-grant), or to go from 200 tons per year (baseline) to 400 tons per year.

Outreach activities: public presentations, tabling: farmers market, art walk, movies in the park, community survey (both online and printed),

Compost services: Selling composters/kitchen caddies and 2nd drop off site is now officially open at the Rec Center at MRRA!

Promotions: posting flyers around town, social media posts

Grant progress: Current compost subscriptions 671, started with 502, an almost 34% increase! Responses to survey shows that most respondents already compost at home. Otherwise survey responses have been limited (under 200 so far)

Steve Weems suggests that the website be used to promote program. Committee discusses other ways to promote this program outside of online.

**Action:** Jay agreed to create a home page banner on the Town website to that publicizes effort, and gets people to the organics recycling landing page for more information.

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

Steve Weems reads a definition of sustainability. Sustainability is the #1 priority for the Energy and Sustainability sub committee.

Tom Rumpf provides an update on pursuing a Climate Community Resilience grant from the state. Working with town staff members Bina, Chrissy, and Eliza. High priority for funding is a GHG assessment for the town operations and residents.

Jamie Ecker reminded the group that the Recycling and Sustainability Committee agreed that one of the priorities for 2022 is to create a baseline study of GHG emissions for the town.

Eliza says outreach efforts to find out what residents think are priorities related to climate change.

**Motion:** Committee reconfirm that establishing a GHG baseline for the Town is critical first step to set other priorities for action. Jamie makes motion, Poppy seconds.

Discussion: Steve Weems reminds group that there's not a lot of money for this work so need to consider that regarding scope of work. Poppy asks about what other towns are doing. Town has more capacity now with new staffing.

**Motion approval is unanimous**

Steve Weems presents the idea of a potential opportunity to plug into a town issue around expanding affordable housing as is related to sustainability.

- Possible role for subcommittee is as a monitoring role on all of these community-level activity
- Investigate how climate interface with comp plan...currently being updated

**Action:** Jamie to invite Town Planner, Matt Panfil to update committee on comp plan

### **Education Subcommittee Report – Harry Hopcroft**

Harry's Recycle Bin column just was published. No other subcommittee activity conducted.

**Motion:** Steve Wood moves to adjourn, Tom Rumpf seconds. Unanimously voted in favor

**Adjournment - 5:54 PM**