

Brunswick Sustainability Committee Meeting July 28, 2020
Meeting via Zoom: 4:30-6:30

Members Present: Harry Hopcroft, Steve Weems, Dieuwke Zolas, Steve Wood, Kay Mann, Chrissy Adamowicz, Jenn Hicks (joined at 4:45) , Marie Caspard (joined at 5:00)

Staff Present: Jay Astle (Public Works Director)

Call to order by J. Ecker, in absence of the Chair at 4:35.

Motion to approve updated Minutes from May 26, and Minutes from June 23.

Discussion that minutes need not be updated because they were correct, and were then updated in June.

Motion Amended to approve May Minutes (Move by Weem, Second by Hopcroft)
Passed by unanimous vote of those present.

Motion by Hopcroft, Second by S. Wood to accept June Minutes
Passed by unanimous vote of those present

Update – J Ecker

Single stream Recycling Fee now \$120/ton for processing, plus \$19.29/Ton transfer fee, plus a rebate (or charge) based on the monthly Average Commodity Revenue (ACR), which varies monthly based on the weighted average of commodity prices. When the ACR is positive, it offsets part of the costs of recycling.

Updates – Jay Astle

The town officially stops the **recycling of glass** as of Aug 3, but will not enforce the change. We should strongly recommend pulling it from the stream, but nobody will be dinged for leaving it in.

There will be a note on the town website

The Public Educ. Subcommittee has information ready to go.

Casella Contract: Nothing new. One year contract extension runs through June 30, 2021.

Action: Jay to send the committee members a copy of the contract.

RFP for landfill closure:

Still working with Maine DEP on engineering, etyc.

No approved plan yet. New draft this week

Deadline of Sept 1 for response to DEP

Real deadline for approval depends on time needed for the appropriate RFP to be done by April 1, 2021
Shutdown takes about a year. Starts in May, 2021

Chair takes the meeting at 4:57

Update of Short Term Plan

- S. Weems discussed the three priorities presented in the plan
 - Glass not collected after 3 Aug (Jay)
 - Public Educ. Is ready to go (Kay)

Jamie notes the basic plan already presented to the Town Council

Jay is working on all of the items in Article 2 about the landfill closure

- Looking at requirements for a Transfer Station, in addition to the special waste areas now permitted.
- Half acre triangle available for additions, which is too small without some variances from DEP
- Scale house too close to the closed landfill. Need replacement.
- Lesser scale OK for special waste use

Update from Education Subcommittee (Kay)

Kay asked about using volunteers to help maintain town website, which is not useful as it is. Rejected by Jay

We might just do links to other places, and put the data there

Dieuwke suggests replacing the insert in the packages of Blue Bags with a sheet that is blank on one side, and has just the town name and the UPC codes on the other.. Jay wants a copy.

No real change to the status of a proposed FB page developed by Jenn.

Can get some stuff posted on the Pub. Works page and cross-link to others.

Noted the "Recycling Facts" page on the town site is blank

Shared Margaret Chingo's video

Discussed FAQ for "tricky stuff"

Jay wants display-ready stuff to put up on the website

Chrissy notes the NRCM "Recyclopedia" , but it uses industry standards, not Casella standards.

Education plan not yet updated because no info yet on glass. Will now be done.

Times Record column to use gmail, instead of town email.

Need \$20 for Margaret's software, and money for printing flyers.

No decision from Jay

Jamie says \$30,000/yr savings by going to EcoMaine

Update on Organic Recycling (Chrissy)

New term, instead of composting

Includes bio-digestion and re-use as animal feed

Pressing the three-pronged approach supported by the full Committee

Looking for 30% household participation. Est. savings 16,000 tons of waste

USM says 20% of total waste is organics

Encourage participation in existing programs, then go for a grant for promotion and education (\$21k)

Motion by S. Weems to endorse the Organics plan and do a grant application (grant would need town approval).

Passed by unanimous vote (all members now present)

Action:

Next meeting Aug 26, 2021 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Meeting Adjourn at 6:46