

## **Brunswick Sustainability Committee Meeting October 27, 2020**

### **Meeting via Zoom: 5:00-7:00**

**Members Present:** Harry Hopcroft, Steve Weems, Dieuwke Zolas, Steve Wood, Kay Mann, Chrissy Adamowicz, Jenn Hicks, Marie Caspard, Jamie Ecker

**Staff Present:** Jay Astle (Public Works Director), Steve Walker (Town Councilmember), John Eldridge (Town Manager)

**Call to order** by the Chair 5:06

**Motion** to approve September 22, 2020 Minutes by Dieuwke

**Seconded** by Stephen Wood

### **Discussion**

Kay offered the amendment of the addition the Southern Midcoast Maine Chamber of Commerce to the list of entities that have share the press release regarding the cessation of glass recycling.

**Approved** unanimously with amendments

### **Staff Updates - Jay**

Drop off location for organics recycling is set up at the Public Works Office. Bins and signage is present. The drop-off site hasn't been publicized officially, but has been used. Containers are about half-full in a week, and there has been no contamination. Jay will put up the text for the organics recycling on the website and will . Jay receives fewer inquiries about the cessation of glass recycling.

### **Education Subcommittee Updates - Kay**

The committee is waiting on the publication of the organics recycling on the Brunswick webpage to initiate publicizing organics recycling. Other updates to the Brunswick webpage were suggested. Harry's most recent column in the Times Record which has been published on Tuesday, Oct 27 is focused on organics recycling. PeoplePlus is hosting a virtual expo; the education subcommittee has prepared a 3 minute video about the sustainability committee's work for it. Jenn can also post to the 'Support Brunswick' facebook page. Harry was also interviewed by Poppy Arford who is running for state rep.

### **Organics Recycling Subcommittee Updates - Chrissy**

Waste diversion DEP grants are due on November 16. Finished grant proposals must be approved by the Town Council; the next Town Council meeting is on November 3. The subcommittee will regroup with Jay on requesting additional assistance with public outreach & education for organics recycling via the grant. The application may rely on the roadmap created by the subcommittee in July. There is no penalty for having received a grant in the selection process. Awards are typically \$10-25,000. The subcommittee will continue conversations about the anaerobic digester. Previously funded proposals include purchasing at-home composting bins & setting up a drop off locations. A proposal such as funding initial curbside pick-up subscriptions or an additional public outreach staff person.

Q: Can pet waste be composted and be placed in the drop-off location? The

subcommittee will reach out to Mark King and review the list of acceptable items from AgriCycle.

Q: Are the liner bags used on the bins plastic? Yes, the depackaging facility removes them. They may be sent to ecomaine.

### **Solid Waste Options Subcommittee Update- Steve Weems**

The Solid Waste Options working group refers to the Solid Waste Options Subcommittee (Jenn, Jamie, Steve Weems) and town staff (Jay Astle, John Eldridge, Ryan). The committee reviewed the Solid Waste Options Memo written by the working group. These options include:

1. **Modified Current State:** Integrated collection & disposal of all municipal solid waste under one contract, with processing continued at Graham Road or another transfer station location.
2. **New Transfer Station:** The transfer station would be at Graham Road or an alternate location. Processing & transferring would take place at the same location for economic reasons. Graham Road may not be large enough for both operations.
3. **Direct haul to outlets:** No new transfer station would be created and contracts for direct haul MSW and SSR.

The committee emphasized the need for a long-term approach to the solid-waste options, however the initial solution doesn't preclude changing to another management scheme in the future, such as beginning without a transfer station and establishing one later. It would cost \$400,000 to connect into the CMP grid from the Graham Road landfill, which is important in the consideration of solar on the Graham Road landfill.

Jamie & Steve Weems will do a walk-through at Graham Road with Town staff to determine feasibility of a transfer station at Graham Road.

John Eldridge clarified that the town has a haul and dispose plan come April with Casella for a short-term (2-3 years).

Stephen Wood has joined the Solid Waste Options Subcommittee.

### **Tour of Lewiston Casella & Auburn Maine WTE Facilities - Stephen Wood**

In the interest of being as informed as possible, Stephen has proposed a tour of the Lewiston & Auburn facilities on the morning of Nov 5. Notice would be required for a quorum of the committee to group up. Jamie, Dieuwke, Steve Weems and Stephen Wood will attend.

### **Solar Energy Subcommittee - Steve Weems**

**Motion** to establish a solar energy subcommittee with the chair to establish membership and leadership at a later date by Steve Weems

**Seconded** by Kay

**Discussion** In the context of the ongoing climate change crisis, Steve has proposed the creation of a Solar Energy Subcommittee to facilitate the development of solar energy projects with the municipality, residents, businesses, etc. This will be an action committee, rather than a high-view planning committee. The council has asked the

subcommittee to look into solar energy and will appreciate an update on how the law has changed and other suggestions. The rec center has previously been identified in the past at a location. There has also been interest in another round of “Solarize Brunswick.” The role of this committee would be to put together much of our solar data. Subscription to community solar may be a mechanism in addition to ownership models of interest.

**Approved** unanimously

Members: Kay, Steve Weems (as chair pro-tem), Marie. Dieuwke may join as well.

**Action** Members will share their first meeting date with the full committee.

**Next Meeting** November 24, 2020 at 5:00 on Zoom

**Meeting Adjourned** at 7:04 PM