

Sustainability Committee Meeting

2/27/2020

7:30pm

Seaside One

Melissa Flynn, Carly Cook, Alison Anholt-White, Dana Menon, Nadia Wetzler
Guests: Lisa Willwerth, Susan Higgins - Beverly Waste Reduction Committee,
Andrew Brousseau - Black Earth Compost

1. Approval of draft minutes from 1/16/20

Discussion of compost participation goal.

Melissa Flynn moves to accept minutes Dana Menon seconds. Minutes approved.

- ### 2. Su Mittermaier and Alison Anholt-White met with Greg Federspiel, Town Administrator, on 2/27/2020, to discuss our waste management contracts and what happens to our contaminated recycling. Should the Town go back to collecting trash every other week, and collecting compost & recycling every week? The Town tried it a few years ago and it was unpopular so they changed back to weekly pickup. Publicize information on how much trash disposal is costing the town, vs. savings in composting. Asked Greg if there's a way to research separate vendors for taking paper/cardboard, or other specific recyclables, for specific recycling purposes. Greg asked us to work out a proposal to send to the Board of Selectmen. Reminded Greg of our ask for improvements to the Town website - direct link from from page of Town website to recycling dos/don'ts. Different recycling contractors (Waste Management, JRM) accept different recyclable materials. Lisa Willwerth: in Beverly JRM is paid a flat fee for waste and recycling pick-up (2 barrels of trash per week and unlimited recycling), plus a per-ton tippage fee for waste. Beverly currently doesn't get any value for the recyclables collected. Beverly is dual-stream (separate containers and paper/cardboard). JRM brings the recycling collected to GreenWorks. JRM usually combines the separated recyclables in the truck, but they say that asking people to separate the recycling makes the recycling cleaner. Manchester's Waste Management contract expires in Sept 2021.

Ideas for the Proposal to the Board of Selectmen: - Dana, Alison, Nadia - to draft up. Some potential ideas:

- Alternative recycling collection companies in the area (Rockport) for specific recyclables (paper/metal/glass, etc) Save That Stuff in Charlestown?
- Reduce pickup of orange trash bags to every other week. Hamilton just changed to every other week trash collection - will be interesting to look at

how that impacts their trash/recycle/compost numbers.

- Designate the "recycle" compactor at the transfer station as only paper & cardboard? Maybe Waste Management would even take that cleaner, separated material?
 - Need more specific data to work with.
 - Raising cost of orange bags?
3. Handout for Town Meeting in April. Will also have some out for the primary voting on March 3rd. We also need a permanent display in Town Hall, and materials for a table to set up at events, around town, etc. Need to make a large sign. Melissa will work on a display for what you can/cannot recycle.
 4. Earth Day 4/22/20 (50th Anniversary) - on the Saturday after Earth Day, and maybe piggyback on an event on 4/22?? - plan downtown tables for compost sign up, sustainability pledge, letters in mailboxes, thermometer on Town Green, recycle info, advance promotional - Cricket ad (Scott Oil space is booked for prior week). Email blast to contacts collected at Sustainability Fair for promoting composting, and for gathering contact info for additional interested people, and asking them to get someone else to compost - maybe pick up a bin at Town Hall and give it to a friend/neighbor in MBTS to start composting. Composting table at Town Cleanup day? At the composting info table have bins and bags (black earth will donate bags) to distribute right there. Set up a competition - which area of Manchester has more composting participation? Any 375th events where we can set up the table? Other events?
 5. Social Media Management - Facebook? Instagram? Website? Page on Town's website - The Town is going to redesign their website, and we can have a page. Takes a lot of time to do it right. Keeping up on questions and comments is difficult.
 6. List of URLs for petitions/actions for MA/regional environmental causes - Alison could make a list of organizations/efforts related to our initiatives in town.
 7. Partner with Community Center to host Reforest the Tropics speaker on 5/23? Learn more about this organization.
 8. Water bottle ban - install refill stations around town. Continue discussion later.
 9. Next meeting date: 3/26/2020