

Sustainability Committee Thursday, March 2, 7:30 PM

In attendance: Alison Anholt-White, Chair, Sue Henderson, Nadia Wetzler, Louisa Mackintosh, Anna O'Leary and guest Justin Sandler from Black Earth Compost

1. Approval of minutes from 1/12/23

2. Strategic Plan is posted to a shared Google drive. The committee needs to figure out what to prioritize and create a timeline with action steps for reaching these goals and others after that. Alison and Sue are going to start the process.

Alison would like to include in the plan collaboration with other towns to share what is being done. She spoke with Tom Warren from Topsfield who was interested in learning more about composting in Manchester. Collaboration could involve finding out who is on boards in other towns and inviting them to participate in Zoom meetings or get together in person.

Nadia suggested getting the Town to pledge to have a goal of reaching net zero on emissions.

How can that be achieved? – the Town has replaced street light bulbs with LED and is planning on buying some electric vehicles. What about building codes and can sustainable codes be enforced?

3. Collaboration with DPW for Republic Services presentation on recycling UPDATE. Alison has selected a movie to show. Gretchen and Caitlin from Republic have been very interested in participating - a date needs to be selected.

4. Zero Waste event at Library 4/28-5/5. Sponsors/donors needed for prizes for those with the least waste generated – some ideas included: Captain Dusty for free ice cream coupons, Seven Seas Whale Watch tickets, Common Crow, Boo Bird, Laughing Gull, Bravo gift certificates.

5. Sustainability table at MMS STEAM Showcase on 3/30 at the middle school from 5-7 pm. Alison has some signs and information for a table. Nadia and Sue plan to be there. Other ideas?

6. Crosbys/restaurants composting- Justin from Black Earth. Crosbys used to compost and might be able to be convinced to do it again. The issue with them is that the wrappings need to be removed from the perishables and they don't have the manpower to do that.

Restaurants are not required to abide by the law and none participate in composting now. There is no financial incentive though it may be break even cost-wise for them. The State is getting more strict about enforcing the law and starting to trace offenses back to the source and impose large fines up to \$20,000.

The schools started composting in October of 2022.

7. Social media management – Anna has been posting to the Facebook page. If a committee member has something to post, send it to Anna and she will do it.

Erica Brown of the Manchester Cricket is open to printing “green” tips – maybe also to promoting the events at the library.

The meeting ended at 9:00 PM

Next meeting date April 6 at 6:00 PM