



Manchester by the Sea Sustainability Committee  
 Meeting Minutes 10/08/2020  
 6:30pm online  
 APPROVED 11/12/2020

Members Present: Alison Anholt-White (Chair), Nadia Wetzler, Allison St. Marie, Su Mittermaier, Carley Cook, Dana Menon, and pending member Leigh Sharfe

- Minutes from 7/02/2020 approved
- Composting - trying to maximize composting participation in town to reduce waste management costs and environmental impacts. DPW has 35 bins, and have been giving out about 2 bins/week for the past couple of weeks. Don't know if they're going to order more, and don't want to give us some of the bins since they have so few in stock. Bins cost \$20/bin to purchase more. Black Earth is selling them for \$24/bin. Is DPW keeping track of who gets bins? - DPW should get more bins, so they don't run out.
  - Can the Sustainability Committee utilize a portion of their funding for more composting bins? The 2020 budget has already been set - maybe there isn't room for the Town to purchase more? Alison - also has a potential resource for getting simple countertop compost bins for folks to us.
- Dana: Town's trash/compost/recycle costs and incomes - rough look:

<b>Expenses 2019</b>	
Recycling processing	\$58,780.26
Trash processing	\$71,890.47
Trash & Recycling curbside pickup at \$22,752/month	\$273,024
Trash & Recycling curbside pickup fuel surcharge at \$664/month	\$7,968
<b>TOTAL TRASH &amp; RECYCLING COST</b>	<b>\$411,662.73</b>
Composting at \$4,623/month (\$1,066.84/week)	\$55,476
<b>TOTAL TRASH, RECYCLE, AND COMPOST DISPOSAL COST</b>	<b>\$467,138.73</b>

<b>Income 2019</b>	
Sale of Orange Trash Bags, through WasteZero	\$275,200
Sale of car/truck stickers for transfer station dumpsters	\$2,210
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$277,410</b>

The contract with Black Earth states:

“Base rate for collection service for the first year will be \$1100/week, with a two and a half (2.5) percent annual increase, effective each year on the first of the next month following the anniversary of the “effective Date.” Furthermore, the base rate will remain until the monthly average is 700 bins (or more) emptied per week, at which point, in increments of 50, the base rate will rise by \$25/week.”

Manchester has approximately 2,417 households. For comparison’s sake, I calculated that if every household in Manchester were to participate in composting, the cost to the town under the existing contract to Black Earth would roughly be:

\$1,100/week for up to 700 households = \$57,200

2,417 households - 700 = 1,717

1,717/50 = 34.34

35 x \$25 x 52 weeks = \$45,500 additional for the remaining 1,717 households

**TOTAL COST FOR COMPOST SERVICE TO EVERY MANCHESTER HOUSEHOLD= \$102,700**

There are estimates out there on what percentage of household trash is food waste - how much cost of trash disposal could be reduced by one household composting? How does that compare to the cost of composting? The largest cost for trash and recycling is the curbside pickup, which is a combined cost for both trash and recycling.

- Nadia Wetzler: do our goals have to be limited to trash reduction?
- Can the restaurants be encouraged to compost?
  - Ask the local restaurants what their barriers are to composting.
  - Restaurants are hard hit right now.
  - Can we put together some sort of guide for the restaurants to make it easier?
  - Does Black Earth already service any restaurants in Manchester or elsewhere?
  - What kinds of encouragement can the municipality offer the restaurants to compost? What incentives can patrons offer?
  - Consult with Black Earth, develop guidelines/procedure for talking to restaurants about composting.
- Nadia Wetzler: trash on the ground around town - beach, on streets. Where is it coming from?
  - Dana: Would using barrels for household waste pickup be cleaner than using bags? The bags get ripped, trash blows around. Other benefits to using barrels instead of bags.
  - Allison St. Marie - can we sponsor buckets at the beach for people to use for picking up trash?

- ZeroWaste Challenge for Manchester
  - Alison Anholt-White: Look at Earth 911. They have a guide on how to conduct a home waste audit - how long will you do the challenge, how to audit your waste, how to change your habits/waste production ...
  - This would be something we would have to publicize. Maybe time it for Earth Day 2021? It could be fun to do it as a friendly community competition.
  - Tie into the idea of advocating for manufacturer's being responsible for managing packaging/waste produced by their products/packaging/shipping.
  - Leigh Sharfe: Collaborate with the HS Green Team? It's not active right now with COVID-19.
  - Allison St. Marie: Check out Loop. You order, they deliver a tote with your products, and all the containers are reusable. You pay a deposit on the containers, and when you're done with stuff you schedule your tote pickup and they take back the containers and clean them for re-use.
  - Alison Anholt-White: An example of a community that did a ZeroWaste challenge: Bedford, NY.
  - Ideas for a publicity campaign?
  
- Social media maintenance: Could a student help us with maintaining & updating our Facebook pages? Could we have a website? Does anyone know anyone who would be interested in taking on our social media presence?
  
- Alison Anholt-White attended a presentation by Sharon Kishida from MA DEP, on managing residential organics. There will be a recording of it that Alison can send out to everyone. Interesting things to be learned from other municipalities, grants to take advantage of, etc.
  
- 40R Boards & Committees LCD study focus group meeting - Dana Menon will be attending next week, representing the Sustainability Committee.
  - Carley Cook: Also the 40B discussion/proposed project. These proposals should be considered all together - the total impact on the town.
  - Alison Anholt-White: there are 3-4 projects planned around town, they should all be coordinating. Run-off, water supply, water supply contamination. They should look at offering a shuttle bus to the center of town - might be possible to work with CATA.
  
- Next meeting date: November 12th, 7:30pm
  
- Motion to adjourn the meeting: Carley Cook, Allison St-Marie seconds. Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm