

TOWN OF KINGSTON, MA RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Minutes –May 2, 2023

Chairman Jean Landis Naumann called the in-person and online meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

Attendees: Jean Landis Naumann, David O’Connell, Gene Wyatt

Also in attendance was Paul Basler, Superintendent of Streets, Trees and Parks; Vanessa Verkade, resident; Todd Koep, MAC from DEP; Everett Malaguti, Plymouth resident

The minutes of the April 4, 2023 meeting was approved (3-0).

The members reviewed invoices for the expenses for a sign for the Organics waste Collection Pilot and photocopy paper for flyers for the Bag Ban, Organics Waste Collection Pilot and the Swap Day.

Voted: to authorize payment of these 2 bills (3-0)

Flyers were distributed at the Annual Town Meeting April 29.

The members discussed the Organics Waste Collection Pilot. To date 50 participants have signed up. Jean will notify Black Earth when to begin pickups. Paul and his staff have created a corral for the collection bins and the sign has been attached.

The members reviewed details for a 1-day Swap event at the Recycling and Disposal Center. June 3 was selected with June 4 as a rain date. Hours will be 9:00 am – 3:00 pm to allow for set-up and clean-up. Jean will provide a pop-up canopy for the receiving table. There will be tables for children’s items, books, household goods, and sports equipment. Each item will need to be approved before it goes on the table. Committee members and volunteers will staff the event. Publicity was discussed. Jean will make labels for the tables and Paul will have them laminated.

The old Swap Shop trailer will be cleaned out on June 1 and 2. Usable items will be added to the 1-day event and the rest recycled/trashed. This will be another opportunity to promote the organics collection pilot, plastic bag ban, and solicit volunteers for a new permanent Swap Shop. Jean announced she has 2 volunteers for a permanent Swap Shop and will ask if they can help with the 1 day event 6/3.

Paul will obtain the estimate of costs for new signs at the Recycling and Disposal Center.

Jean reported the reusable shopping bag order has been delivered. She will make handouts to go with the bags. She also provided to the Board of Health a third notice to be sent to retailers before June 1.

Paul and Todd announced that the new textile rebate of \$140 a ton went into effect 2 weeks ago. Gene mentioned that a separate textile report is sent to DEP by the schools that have collection bins.

Paul reported that the Board of Selectmen approved the new rates for Recycling and Disposal Center stickers and associated fees that go into effect June 1. He also informed them that the reduced fee stickers account for about 50% of all sticker sales. He also reminded the members that good screened compost is now available.

Paul and Todd asked when the committee will consider a Pay-As-You-Throw program, which has proven to significantly reduce trash volume in communities where it has been adopted. Jean replied that the Organics Waste Collection Pilot is the next step in helping residents reduce their trash volume and could lead to a PAYT program.

Gene asked what rebates we currently receive and Paul replied cardboard, paper, and metal. Vanessa asked if these rebates could be publicized. Everett mentioned that Plymouth tried single-stream recycling and has returned to source-separated as is now done in Kingston.

With the ever changing recycling industry, the most reliable source for information on what can be recycled is the Recyclopedia, which is on the town web site.

There was a brief mentioned of the current manufacturer responsibility bills pending at the state and national level that would require producers to cover the cost of recycling of materials they manufacture.

Jean reminded the members of the upcoming SSRC 25th anniversary celebration May 16. Gene pointed out the many benefits to members of the SSRC.

Todd reminded the members that the new grant season is here and the information is available online. He will work with Paul to submit the RDP report. There is a webinar May 10 on the current grants.

Gene suggested a new video be produced on what opportunities are available for recycling in Kingston.

David suggested we have signage on each recycle bin about how much is saved on that item.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 6 at 9:00 am both in-person and Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Landis Naumann