

TOWN OF KINGSTON, MA RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Minutes –June 6, 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, Vanessa Verkade

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

The minutes of the May 2, 2023 meeting was approved (4-0).

The members discussed the organics waste collection pilot. Nearly 75 residents have signed up to participate. Additional efforts will be made to complete the 100 signups. Jean will contact Black Earth to see if they will accept compostable bags. If they do not, where can residents be advised for disposal. The members agreed that any resident should be allowed to place organic material in the 3 collection bins. The corral around the bins needs to be repaired. Paul suggested the participants be asked how frequently they are leaving material in the bins. The members thanked Paul, Lynn Menton and Sean Turner for their assistance with this pilot.

The members reviewed details for the rescheduled 1-day Swap event at the Recycling and Disposal Center. June 10. 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. Care Works Ministry on Pottle Street have been contacted to take leftovers at the end of the day.

The old Swap Shop trailer was cleaned out on June 1 and usable items will be added to the 1-day event and the rest were recycled/trashed. Paul was thanked for his assistance and that of his staff in cleaning out the trailer.

Paul will have the new signs at the Recycling and Disposal Center by July 1.

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

Paul announced the Hazardous Household Waste collection day June 17 in Kingston. 168 residents have signed up so far.

Paul and Todd discussed the SSRC grant request due 6/14 for \$250,000 in matching to open a regional HHW depot, possibly in Hanover. The associated equipment is very expensive and staff will need to be trained on how to handle materials brought to the depot for disposal. Todd will share the information sent to him by Brooke Nash on how to set up a permanent depot. It is estimated that it will take 2 years to complete the installation.

The next SSRC meeting is 6/7 and open to all, in-person or via Zoom.

Paul mentioned the truck assistance received from Crystal Clear Pools while the town truck is in the shop for repairs.

Todd was asked if there are any grants to establish new MRFs and he suggested John Fisher at DEP be contacted regarding this. Todd mentioned that existing MRFs have had to install fire suppression systems due to daily fires caused by rechargeable and lithium batteries.

Todd mentioned a webinar on plastics that he attended last week. He will forward the link of the recording of the webinar. The group discussed the need to let residents know that black plastic should not be recycled because it ends up in the trash. Producers seem to be shifting to materials that are recyclable. Recycle Smart has a Facebook page that can be shared with residents. Jean will forward all Recycle Smart emails to the committee members.

The members discussed how difficult it seems to be to share information with residents. Everett mentioned that Plymouth has an employee who posts on Facebook, Twitter, and PACTV.

The members discussed the current RDP grant submission and the town should be eligible for \$9,600, to be received in the fall. Todd explained that the waste-to-energy credits are used to fund the RDP grants.

Members have not heard any complaints about the plastic bag ban. It was mentioned that Rockland Trust provided reusable shopping bags at their recent free shredding event.

Members were asked to review the current Recycling Committee web page for discussion at the next meeting.

Jean reported that Janet Wade told her PAC TV is reporting a higher than usual viewing rate on the “infomercials” created from Janet’s recent Healthy Kingston program. Jean reported receiving inquiries on her segment on the current activities of the Recycling Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 11 at 9:00 am both in-person and Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Landis Naumann