

Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes for July 11, 2023

Meeting called to order by the Chair, Jean Landis-Naumann.

Attendees: Jean Landis-Naumann, David O'Connell, Gene Wyatt and Vanessa Verkade.

Also, present Everett Malaguti, Plymouth resident.

Approve minutes of June 6, 2023 - approved unanimously.

Board Reorganization: Jean Landis-Naumann was re-elected as Chair, Vanessa Verkade was elected Secretary by unanimous votes.

Update on organics collection pilot, contract –This pilot program had a confusing start. The collection bins moved several times at the Recycling and Disposal Center (RDC) and signage has been a work in progress. Currently all 100 organic waste collection buckets have been distributed to Kingston Households for collecting kitchen organic waste. In June, the first month of the pilot, we had 3 bins supplied by our vendor Black Earth which cost \$320 to empty on a weekly basis. We learned that it is not for the amount /weight of the organic compost collected but for the number of bins so in July we reduced to 2 bins and weekly pickup will cost \$180 per month. The bins are getting more compost in them as the program gets established. Residents have asked if there are more bins, but one does not need a Town issued bin to participate. Households can collect food waste and kitchen scraps in any bucket or yogurt container or milk carton to dump its contents into the food waste bins. Jean will continue to email the list of households that took collection buckets to remind them to dump their collected organic waste regularly. The pilot will run through October and then the committee will assess the benefits and value of the program.

The town Agricultural Committee is hosting an Agricultural Fair on September 10, 2023 from 1-4 PM behind the Town House. The Recycling committee agreed to sign up for an informational booth.

Discuss and analyze Swap Shop Day held on June 10. Originally scheduled for June 3 with a rain date of June 4, the event was postponed until June 10 because of the weather. The day ended in torrential rain, but everything was cleaned up thanks to a productive day and some great volunteers. It was an opportunity to clean out the swap shop trailer as it is no longer usable after being shut down for a few years during COVID. On June 10, there were many people who stopped by to look at what was available, to drop off more items and to take useful items home. Everyone left with something. In the afternoon, Careworks on Pottle Street came by and picked up many reusable items to give away in their program and Kingston Florist picked up reusable vases. It was agreed that we will not host other swap days. To have a swap shop again we will need to secure a structure and a team of volunteers to keep it operating smoothly.

Review of web page items- committee members are encouraged to look at the Kingston Recycling Committee links on the Town website - <https://www.kingstonma.gov>

<https://www.kingstonma.gov/367/Recycling-Disposal-Center>

Prior suggested sites include Recycle Smart, Beyond the Bin, and Recyclopeda.

The information needs to be organized and updated.

Promotion of transfer station, signage layout of recycling at transfer station and promotion of signage, tabled

Updates on other recycling issues – Private Hauler regulations, RDP, Plastic Bag Ban implementation, SSRC, web site update etc. Jean will meet with the new Health Agent to discuss private hauler regulations, etc. Plastic bag ban seems to be working, some retailers have stopped charging for paper bags.

David suggested providing training on recycling at the next beekeepers' meeting

An initiative for next year is to support and expand Green Team membership at the local schools

Update from Paul Basler, Supt. Trees, Streets and Parks – new signage for RDC - Paul was unable to attend, tabled.

Update from DEP, MAC meeting summary - Todd Koep- Todd was unable to attend, tabled.

Recruiting new members – no discussion

Next meeting – no meeting in August, **September 5, 2023.**

Adjourned at 10:25 am by unanimous vote.

Mark your calendar

September 6 -South Shore Recycling Cooperative Meeting 9:00 – 10:30 AM at Kingston Town Hall Room 200

September 10 - Kingston Agricultural Fair 1-4 PM behind the Town House

Respectfully submitted, Vanessa Verkade