

Recycling and Waste Disposal Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2015

PRESENT: Pat Bracken; Chairman, Ellen Cabral, Chris Kowalski, and Bob Nugent

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm

Guests: Penny Williams, (Tri Town News), Selectman Lindquist

MINUTES

The minutes of May 13, 2015 were accepted with a motion by C. Kowalski and a second by E. Cabral and passed 4-0. There was no June 2015 meeting. Mr. Bracken asked if there was any update on the Guerilla Day. Ms. Cabral said she had not contacted the instructor but did talk with Gwen and she understood that it went well that day. Ms. Cabral reported that she didn't know if the plan was to consolidate the classes in the afternoon or not.

Old Business

Hannaford-Paper Bags-Mr. Bracken thanked the committee members that were able to make it to Hannafords for the press release on the paper bags decorated by the students in Mr. Terrile's art class. The bags are hanging up in the produce area. Mr. Terrile would like to do it again next year and work it into his class projects.

Compost Class- There were about 30 people including the instructor at the compost class held at the Library recently. Mr. Kowalski mentioned that he wished that the instructor had used a practical approach on how to use the bins that the town sells (which come from the NRRA). He felt the instructor jumped around a lot and that we needed a basic 101 composting class. Mr. Nugent noted that the audience did good in participating.

Household Hazardous Waste Day- It was suggested that prior to the August meeting start time, that the committee meet at the Middle School to do a site walk to see how the household hazardous day will work. They suggested that they meet at the Middle School 7:00 on August 12th.

NRRA Conference- Mr. Nugent reported that he was not impressed with the kids program at the conference this year and had second thoughts about sending anyone next year to the kids portion. He said there were 6 or 7 kids and 10-15 adults and only one program with kids involved.

Mr. Kowalski reported that he spoke to a few people and there is a composting program in Newburyport that is successful and has the support from the town. He explained that there is a list of volunteers that sign up for composting and then their compost is picked up. He will look into getting some further information about the program.

Ms. Cabral said that she spoke with the PAYT group and that there are case studies they have for small towns. She noted that they talked about the great benefits of the program and how it is keeps cost down, but most from using a transfer station to the PAYT program, not from a curbside collection to PAYT. Selectman Lindquist said that in the recent Town and City magazine there is a great article on PAYT that makes the program worth looking into. Mr. Kowalski also spoke with the people regarding the PAYT and he asked permission from the other members that he send them out statistics and everyone was okay with that.

Ms. Cabral also stated that there was a person at the conference that is working on Styrofoam recycling. They showed items that are made with the recycled Styrofoam and it looks interesting. Mr. Nugent spoke about the issues with contamination of recycling with plastic bags.

Mr. Kowalski mentioned that he spoke with the people from Planet Aid and that they were willing to put a container in town still. They said to let them know if we find a location to place it and that they use "dummy" video cameras to prevent from "dumping" or putting in the wrong items.

Ms. Cabral asked if it Kent Farm would be a good location? Mr. Nugent noted that it wouldn't hurt because it could divert the fibers at the transfer station before it got to the compactor. He suggested that the bin be placed in the beginning of the season and removed. They also discussed "foam" and that boxes that could be broken down and recycled are usually "intact" with the box and the foam and if there was a way to allow it to be separated at the transfer station and make it "one stop disposal". It would need someone to monitor it. Ms. Cabral said that someone there could show people how the different things could be recycled.

Mr. Nugent said that down south recycling is different than it is here and that maybe there should be a standard to the whole process of what can be recycled. He also noted that there is an article about how recycling is stalling due to the "Big Blue Bin" because it deters people from recycling along with contamination issues. They discussed the "automated collection" system. Mr. Nugent noted that there are smaller bins and Mr. Kowalski noted that there may be issues with the placement of the toters.

New Business

Cardboard Toter- There was discussion about having a toter just for the cardboard and whether or not there would be a cost savings. It was noted that there is a place in Lawrence that may take cardboard but more information is being gathered on it. It was suggested to see if someone could watch what is actually taken to Kent Farm and what goes into the packer.

St. Anne's Summer Festival- It is scheduled for Saturday, July 25th and runs from 9-6 (actually 9-4). The committee would like to have a table there and bring recycling bins, compost bins and some bags (for residents only). Mr. Nugent said that he could be there 12-2 and Ms. Cabral can be there 10-12.

Casella/Bestway- Mrs. Harrington mentioned that there have been many calls over the last few months regarding issues with trash and recycling. There have been no complaints about the dropping of Friday and that route being moved to two other days. The complaints are missed pickups, two barrels and only one being taken, missed recycling, streets missed etc. Mrs. Harrington did state that things have gotten better than they were, but that they are still averaging anywhere from 1-5 calls per day. The Committee asked that someone from Casella come and speak with the committee about the issues and see what is being addressed and if there are things the committee needs to address. It was suggested to see if they could come on Wednesday, July 22nd. Mrs. Harrington will check with them.

Mr. Kowalski mentioned that Newburyport Mass. has a great informational sheet on their website about where and how to recycle.

Mr. Bracken wanted the contact information on Veolia because he is trying to find how to dispose of ballast lights that the church has. It was said that up to 1979 they were considered hazardous, but since then they do not have any PCB in them.

Motion to adjourn at 9:05 pm was made by Mr. Kowalski and seconded by Mr. Bracken and passed 4-0.

NEXT MEETING

August 12, 2015 at 6:45 p.m. at Hampstead Middle School

August 12, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Harrington,
Recording Secretary