

Cleaner Greener Hingham / Long Range Waste Disposal and Recycling Committee

Present: Brenda Black, Janice McPhillips, Steve Jiranek (Stucky), Andy Ayer, David White, Katie Puzo, Brian Cardarella

Wednesday 4/10/19, 7:00 pm

1. DPW Liaison (Randy Sylvester is not here):
 - a) Updates from the Transfer Station – Plastic bag recycling situation needs addressing Stucky will work on finding a vendor for plastic bags & film – he will call Whole Foods and find out who their vendor is. Katie says plastic and film is recycled at Fresh Market, she will find out vendor name. Recycling plastic at our transfer station will qualify us for one RFP point which could pay for contract for Tomra or another company to pick up. As of now, cardboard, textiles, metal are all making money for the town. Brenda contacted Dan from Capital Paper who said our plastic recycling is going to Mohawk carpets, paper is going to a company called Grimes in Fitchburg, metal is going to smelting plant in Pittsburg.
 - b) New mattress recycling contract – Our contract for free mattress recycling through DEP ended in January, 2019. Our new mattress recycling contract is with Green Mattress Co. Brenda saw them present an overview at SSRC meeting. Cost for residents to recycle a mattress is \$20 per mattress, regardless of size.

2. Next steps educating about the bag bylaw:
 - a) CGH webpage and materials to be posted – Andy will update the 6 slides used for Ad Com presentation in February. Brian will help by adding some brief talking points about why ban plastic bags, what the bylaw says, why use reusable bags. Andy will also put AdCom comment on CGH website as a PDF.
 - b) Preparation for Town Meeting - Decided that we will not to lead with a presentation and that Andy will do rebuttal if need be. Brian will help with talking points. We discussed sending an email to those who were at the library for the first meeting in January to remind them that bag bylaw is article 29, will be discussed on 2nd night of town meeting, info about Advisory Board endorsement, etc. Ron Wooley is working with 2 HHS students who can talk at town meeting. Once info is up on CGH website, Andy will put an announcement on Hingham Reduce Reuse, Recycle Facebook page and we'll share it to other pages.
 - c) Planning for "Plastic Ocean" showing 4/11/19 – multiple tables with education, school green teams. HHS kids are busy with Green Week and will not have a table, but a few are planning on attending. Andy will do a brief slide presentation about the bylaw, Janice will bring compost bin for ROT table, Brenda has info about what can be recycled at our transfer station, Stucky has reuse examples.
 - d) Journal article – Brenda sent an article to the Journal about why reusable bags and how to use them regularly and safely. She sent it 3/29 but hasn't been published yet.
 - e) Harbor Media promotion of Bag Bylaw – this is not happening per Andy.
 - f) Hingham Anchor – several good articles have appeared about bag bylaw, cleanup day, etc. Swap shop.

3. Community Outreach/Education:

- a) Spring Newsletter – topics to be included: 1) Fruit Center plastic bag ban and charge for single use paper (Katie will do the Green Spotlight on Fruit Center in mid may), 2) Brenda will do an article about library re-use program, 3) article about the result of town meeting, 4) Katie will do an article about cleanup day on 4/7, 5) Steve C. will write an article about where our recyclables go in Hingham to get the word out about the fact that our plastics are actually being recycled contrary to what popular press has been covering.
 - b) Cleanup Day April 7 – 40 people came to Bare Cove, Shipyard commercial area had 10 people, no one at HHS or HMS. Katie was in contact with Senator Patrick O'Connor who couldn't come, but he was aware of the event. #trashtag – a few pictures posted. Katie will do a write up of this for newspaper and also for Hingham Journal. The Hingham Anchor did a short piece on Cleanup Day.
 - c) Preparing for Household Hazardous Waste Day 5/4 – Pete will do an hour, David will try to be there for an hour, Janice & Brenda are unavailable. This is a good way to find out residents' questions about recycling.
 - g) Journal articles - Steve C will write one about Hingham's recyclables, will save that for later in May. Brenda will send an article to the Hingham Journal about HHW day. Katie will write an article mid to late May about Cleanup Day.
 - h) Other – assuming the bylaw is adopted, Brian suggested a bag redemption plan – an incentive for using reusable bag like a bottle redemption plan. Maybe HDA could have a branded bag to use in this redemption program. Janice suggested calling a meeting with all school green committees after Town Meeting to discuss reusable bag education campaign.
 - d) Reducing waste at Taste of Hingham on 5/18 – Janice talked to Nate at Weir River Farm who agreed to taking food waste from TOH for compost piles and to Mark Minister about logistics of food waste diversion. They are also considering using compostable plates, they estimate 15,000! Their committee met recently to discuss the cost of purchasing plates, food waste collection, etc. Janice will call Mark Minister to ask about the status of their plans. Congregational Church will need lots of volunteers to staff trash / recycling / composting stations if they go forward with the plan. Possibly get an older group of kids who are on the list for community service in exchange for transfer station redeemable money to help – contact Liz Welch at DPW to see who is on the list.
 - e) Update re demonstration boxes at Transfer Station – this is in process
 - f) Suggestions for recycling, waste reduction, and sustainability ideas for Green Tip of the week Facebook posts – Katie will do the next one of these.
 - g) Other- Hingham Light usually gives us space in one of the summer light bills for an announcement. Might want to publicize the fact that residents who have trash hauler can take a wide array of things to the transfer, much more than the limited list of things that can be recycled in the curbside container.
4. Updates from MA DEP and SSRC – Brenda shared the SSRC position about plastic bag bylaw from Claire Galkowski which includes a recommendation that plastic bans specify any paper bags offered be made from 100% recyclable content to create more of a market for recycled paper and prohibit handles on paper bags to make them less convenient to use.
5. Trash haulers in Hingham – there are currently 27 haulers with permits in town. That's a lot of traffic and CO2 emissions driving through town. Discussed asking BOH in Hingham if they

would want to pass new rules to reduce the number of permitted haulers in town? Plymouth recently brought their hauler list down to 3 from over a dozen. Also, discussed asking if BOH would pass a rule to require trash / recycling haulers to bundle the cost of recycling and trash service which would require then to provided trash and recycling for the one price. At least one hauler currently allows trash w/o recycling. Graham does trash weekly, recycling every other – should be the other way around.

6. Approval of Minutes of 3/20/19 meeting

Next meeting date: May 8, 7pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janice McPhillips