

Minutes - Cleaner Greener Hingham / Long Range Waste Disposal and Recycling Committee

Wednesday 5/14/19, 7:00 pm

Present: Brenda Black, Janice McPhillips, Brian Carderella, Andy Ayer, Steve Jiranek (Stucky)

1. DPW Liaison (Randy is not here):
 - a) RDP – recycling dividend points: Stucky talked to Trex about picking up plastic bags and films at the Transfer Station. They will only accept it if the material is baled. Stucky will contact Randy about this because Stop ‘n’ Shop is likely to remove plastic bag and film collection containers from the store once the bag takes effect. Don’t know if Trex will charge money to pickup at the Transfer Station but RDP money could be used to offset cost. Randy is working on the application, due to DEP by June 15. Randy discovered that no one of the public schools in Hingham are signed up for the Green Team. Since this is one of the 5 things we need to do to earn a point for education, Janice contacted all schools to get them to sign up. Randy thinks we’ll get between 9-11 points - \$1100 per point. Last year he bought new outdoor recycling bins and swap shop trailer.
2. Education and Implementation of bag bylaw:
 - a) CGH webpage: Our website needs updating. Andy will take old stuff off website, add the bylaw, post articles that Steve C wrote and Brenda’s article about reusables. Andy met with Susan Sarni Health Agent. He shared 2 documents used by Boston – first is the form residents could use to report noncompliant business. Second is the form for businesses to request a waiver from compliance. Waiver criteria is excess plastic bag inventory. Brenda says there should be no option for a permanent waiver. Waiver date is based on inventory supply – not more than 6 months from implementation date. BOH has an intern for the summer and that person could work on notification and education of businesses about the ban if BOH decides this is what they want the intern to work on. BOH plan is to start by notifying big box stores at Derby Street. We discussed the fact that most of the bags likely come from 10 stores – suggest this to the intern to focus on high use stores. Andy will edit the two forms and give to the intern to use. In addition to putting info on the website, we discussed ways our committee could help to get the word out about the ban. We could write an article for the Journal and ask Carol Meyer to write one for the Hingham Anchor. Andy proposed making a brochure about recycling in town with info about bag ban, mattresses, etc. Other website suggestion is to recreate the “What Must I Recycle” form.
 - b) Reusable Bag Sales: HHS Green Team kids are making a “Hingham Recycles” logo bag. They will order 300-500 bags that they’ll sell at Farmers Market, homecoming, holiday fair, and other places, funded by PTO. Elementary schools can get involved by having HHS green team member come to event to sell bags. They’ll figure out a store in downtown to sell them. Suggest to HHS Green team that they ask Big Y since they’ve been promoting reusable bags and possibly Fruit Center too?
 - c) Work with school PTO Green Committees re promoting reusable bags: All School Recycling Meeting is scheduled for June 4th. We will discuss the bag sales the HHS Green Team is doing and suggest that other school green teams work with HHS green team.

- d) Other: Andy asked about the fact that DPW collects emails when you sign up for transfer station sticker. Can we use the emails to send out the link to the newsletter? Andy will ask Randy about this. That would help us get our RDP points for communication and education.
3. Community Outreach/Education:
- a) Spring Newsletter topics: Brenda will contact Steve C to ask if he will pull the newsletter together. Andy will write about the new bylaw, Brenda will write about library technology services lending library, Janice will write about the Fruit Center bag policy, Brian will write an article about Green Technology, David will write about the most common questions that came up at the recent Household Hazardous Waste. We decided that our deadline is the Tuesday after Memorial Day so that this can be published as a spring newsletter.
 - b) Journal article on how Hingham's recyclables collections being used: Steve C. said at a prior meeting that he will do that.
 - c) Update about reducing waste at Taste of Hingham 5/18: Janice reported on this. Congregational Church is the sponsor. They are purchasing compostable plates and bowls and organizing a low waste event to collect food waste (which will go to Weir River Farm's compost), compostable plates (which will go to Transfer Station for composting), recycling, and trash. DPW advertised for volunteers from the groups who need to perform community service in order to get redeemable bottle and can money. Class of 2020 is sending volunteers. Mark Minister is coordinating. Andy will take pictures. Katie will staff a table for TOH, Andy will help and he'll take pictures.
 - d) Facebook Green Tips: reviewed suggested topics sent by Andy. Andy can post on Town's Facebook page. The plan is to schedule 2 posts a month according to the schedule he sent out. Andy will notify Janice when he does a post so she can share to Hingham Pinboard. First post should be about the fact that our recyclables in Hingham are sent to Mohawk Carpets to be made into synthetic carpets. Andy will post info about Basel convention, countries can refuse to receive imported plastic from any country that they don't want it from.
 - e) Feedback regarding resident questions at HHW collection: David was at HHW day but is not here tonight to share info. He will write an article for newsletter.
 - f) Update of demonstration boxes at Transfer Station (Stucky): Griffin Brown (Eagle Scout) is presenting his idea to update the demonstration boxes to Boy Scout Council this week. He plans to create a QR code on each box which will go to CGH website where correct info will be stored. Project to be completed this summer. Brenda suggested Stucky talk to Steve Messinger and Randy to get buy-in to the project. We need to recreate "what must be recycled" document and post it on the website.
4. Updating Committee Goals for 2019: update website and figure out a plan for residential food waste composting using one of the 4 local companies that will pick up food waste – EOMS, Troupe, Black Earth Compost, City Compost. Black Earth gave a presentation at most recent SSRC meeting. They are willing to do a pilot pickup program for 50 residents. They estimated that it takes 700 households having food waste pickup to make enough of a difference in tip fees to SEMASS. Another goal – working with BOH to pass a bylaw to require trash and recycling pickup be offered to residents who have a contract service for one bundled price. Another goal – work with BOH on reducing the number of haulers who drive around Hingham picking up trash. Plymouth successfully did this and reduced the number of haulers from a dozen to 3.

5. Approval of Minutes of 4/10/19 meeting.

Next meeting date: Tuesday June 11, 7pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janice McPhillips