

TSARC April, 13,2020

Attendance: Nancy Irwin, Chair; Andy Costello; Barbara Meyer; Kim Schubert; Megan Sullivan; Annette Wells

Also present: Nick Milano

Meeting opened remotely via ZOOM, shortly after 9:00, being recorded

1. Roll call taken, have a quorum.
2. Moment of Silence for those affected by Pandemic, followed by violin rendition of “The Joy of It”, played by Andy.
3. Approved (via roll call) the minutes from March with one change.
4. Report on “Is Recycling Broken?” Webinar by Andy.
 - China took approximately 40% of US recycling in early 2000’s, but due to contamination, began backing off after 2013,
 - Other Countries picked up slack, such as Malaysia, Viet Nam, Turkey, Taiwan. They, too, began getting stricter.
 - China is buying US Mills, in fact 3 in ME. 17 additional Mills opening, hopefully soon, in NE.
 - There are 9 Municipal Recovery Facilities(MERFS) in the US. 5/9 sell plastic, 75% of which remains in US. Do MERFS actually recycle the materials or trash them? There are strict regulations governing this process, so “no”, they do not trash the materials.
 - Since the Pandemic, some waivers have resulted regarding plastic bags, reusable bags and bottle returns Cardboard use up due to increase in home deliveries; toilet paper manufacturing is up;
 - Recycle Smart has resources to access-goal is to have same guidelines Statewide. e.g. use graphics ,not only words, on signs.
 - Report on Electronics Webinar by Megan. Instead of recycling, thought should be to refurbish and reuse. This is able to be done when SWAP operating.
 - Report on Rethinking Recycling Webinar by Megan. We should be thinking about reducing our carbon footprint and not just recycling. e.g. should tuna be processed into a can, which can be recycled, or is a pouch a better option?
5. TS Operations-Nancy and Annette
 - Electricity has been installed at entrance to SWAP area; we will need to procure extension cords to be able to reach farther tent,
 - Epilepsy Trailer upkeep- Annette takes photo weekly, which gets sent to John Rose, who then organizes Trailer, then Nancy sends updated photo to Brad/Kim/Mara at Epilepsy. Mara then informs Nancy of pick-up day, either Friday or Saturday. Kim to notify Nancy when they are no longer able to collect from Trailer.
 - Plastic Bags currently not be collected at TS, as precaution due to Covid-19. Sign needs to be put on Tote to sate temporary and either save bags or bring to Shaw’s.
 - Want to sell Plastic Backyard Compost Bins, at TS, but currently best option is to purchase at Will’s along with kitchen scrap buckets, etc.

- SWAP on hold. Definitely not opening in May or June. It takes 2 weekends to open up, so need plenty of notice.
6. Plastic Bags- Andy
 - 140 Towns in MA banned use of plastic bags at checkout. Governor waived that recently due to Pandemic,
 - Shaw's and CVS currently offering paper bags at checkout.
 - Since currently unable to bring own bags into stores, alternative is to put items in cart, wheel to car, and put in own bags.
 7. CC- Annette
 - Last month's CC had 66% open rate. maybe because had to negate most of what had published, due to quickly changing information relating to Pandemic.
 - This month,
 - what to do with plastic bags;
 - Recyclopeda;
 - Will's source of Compost supplies;
 - Epilepsy Trailer guidelines
 8. Sustainability- Megan We were unable to meet March 27. We are meeting this Thursday, April 16 at 11 am via ZOOM. Discussions will include Warrant Article on Energy Aggregation and upcoming Earth Day
 9. Additional Topics
 - Megan would like to set up a ZOOM Meeting regarding composting, during Earth Week. Will work with Kim. Will advertise on Patch and FB.
 - Suggest Andy play at all our meetings.
 10. Went over follow-up items from March
 11. Next TSARC Date M, May 11 at 9 am probably via ZOOM. Adjourned 10:37, approved via roll call.