

Transfer Station and Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes
Town Hall – Chenery Room
May 13, 2019

PRESENT: Chairman Megan Sullivan, Barbara Meyer, Andrea Costello, Cheryl Dunlea, Nancy Irwin, Annette Wells

Also present: Robert Kennedy, Jr., Jackie Alford

Megan Sullivan called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM.

Cheryl Dunlea is an official member of our committee. Welcome to Jackie Alford who is learning about the committee with the hope to join. Megan noted that she has been Chairman for 4 years and is hoping to transition leadership to another Chairman or rotating group.

April minutes were approved.

Revolving Fund

There is about \$5,000 in the Revolving Fund. (April expenses...\$850 for Medfield Green Month flyer; \$950 for mattresses)

Plastic Reduction Initiative

We noted the passing of Article 21 at the Town Meeting. A total of 112 Massachusetts towns have passed a plastic bag ban. Many other towns used Medfield's information. Dover passed a ban and their initiative was run by students.

Going Forward--Spring: notify all merchants that the initiative passed. Fall: educate the public in preparation for November 1 implementation.

Thank you for the support of this committee.

Recycling Dividends

Megan is working with Donna Cimeno on the grant application for Recycling Dividends due June 12th.

At the last meeting we agreed to support the Tool Library (at Medfield Public Library), as one of the approved uses of Recycling Dividend monies (note: a Tool Library is one activity that gets a point for Recycling Dividends). We further approved that we would fund a \$600 rolling cart for display of items in the tool library from Recycling Dividends funds. Annette offered to help coordinate with Brie at the Library on the Tool Library, including promotion.

Organics

The organics brochure Andy developed will go out with new Transfer Station stickers. Kitchen scrap composting materials were available at the Transfer Station on May 11 for Medfield Green Month. Remaining kitchen scrap composting materials will go to Wills, since they will handle sales/availability going forward. Jackie will help with the promotion of this program.

Funding of the organics program is confirmed through June, but not after that. It costs \$174/month. We need a slightly higher rate of collection to make it cost-effective to collect organics (rather than

dumping as trash). Efforts to promote the organics program should help increase participation. Jackie Alford agreed to help with this.

Swap

Swap set up was extremely busy with 18 volunteers on the first Saturday and 24 on the second Saturday. The tarp ripped and was shredded by the wind. It was approved that \$250 from the Revolving Fund would be used for the tarp replacement.

There were some issues with people coming to the Swap more than once on a day and staying longer than 30 minutes. Bobby will relay issue to Maurice who can discuss follow-through with a letter to notify people of expected compliance with Swap rules. Someone suggested allowing people to come a second time 2:30-3:00 to take things, but parking is crowded, so that might not work well.

There was a suggestion that volunteers who can coordinate arrival/departure times could carpool from the Highway Garage, particularly in May when Green Month activities crowd all parking areas at the Transfer Station.

Medfield Green Month

The month is going well. Electronics, Organics, Building Materials, Styrofoam and Textile collections are components.

Students

Medfield High students are initiating green efforts and would like our support. Areas of interest include recycling throughout the school, disposed Styrofoam trays for lunch, and composting food waste. Sue Cowell in the Wellness Dept is interested in sustainability and may be a good partner to work with.

Medfield Day, Sept. 14

Last year we staffed a booth for Medfield Day for the town. The topic was the Plastic Bag Ban (with Andy starring as the Plastic Bag Lady). It cost \$75 (from the Revolving Fund). Suggestions for 2019—plastic straws, plastic bottles, Styrofoam take-out containers, mattresses, organics. The committee felt a continued presence would be a good idea. Jackie Alford offered to coordinate the booth at Medfield Day and will work on developing a theme. Thank you, Jackie!

Public Space Recycling

We are still waiting for the containers. DPW will do trash and recycling at Subway and North St. Market. If Park & Recreation agreed, we could supply containers for their collection of trash and recycling at the Gazebo and Hinckley Pond, and Park & Rec could continue to transport the collections at those sites.

Mattress Recycling Program

Mattresses have cost February--\$1200; March--\$1400; April--\$1700 with half of the cost being funded by the Revolving Fund. Information from Swanapalooza is that Massachusetts is working on a state-wide mattress program (Rhode Island and Connecticut both have in place a \$15 surcharge on mattress purchases to cover future disposal). UTEC (current collector) charges \$425 for the truckload haul as well as \$16/piece. Green Mattress currently handles the RI program and would take our mattresses at \$15/piece without a haul charge. Megan will get this information to Maurice. Our committee agreed that if we cannot put the expense for this program on those who drop off the mattresses that we should

suspend the program until we can as it is very expensive. Megan will share this information with Maurice.

New TS Stickers

The organics brochure and the Transfer Station Brochure will be issued with the Transfer Station stickers. Medfield will allow a sticker for a leased car not registered as principally garaged in Medfield (but registered to a Medfield resident) to have a transfer station sticker for an additional fee of \$25. Stickers cannot be processed online at this point but that registration system should be online soon.

Financial

Comparing FY '19 to FY '18 (July to April), incinerator trash was up 0.6%, but recycling tonnage was down 4.2%. **Of particular note: Transfer Station stickers for the 2-year period 2017 – 2019 was down 3.1% from the same period 2015 – 2017.** Note: in 2017, 12% of sticker-holders said they also had private trash service.

PR/Communications Plan

Thank you to Andy for finalizing our logo. We love it.

Annette reviewed the Constant Contact details. This could be a means for sending email blasts, newsletters, memos to all with stickers who have given an email address for use in the data base. There is a 30-day free trial; there is probably an invoice after 30 days. A subscription is about \$850/yr.---money to come from the Revolving Fund. Need to check with Maurice and Donna about using this service.

Tasks & To Dos

Bobby will pursue refreshing the labels on the totes for plastic bag recycling at the Transfer Station.

Bobby agreed to add a clipboard in the trailer to tally the number of bags of plastic bags that are taken each week to Shaw's.

Nancy is hoping that New Life can come weekly. Bobby suggested that they should come on Tuesdays when the Transfer Station is not open.

It was mentioned that there should be PR about Organics – Jackie. And the tool library – Annette.

The town website could use some help with some program descriptions including a new composting page.

T-shirt fundraiser idea needs a champion.

Next Meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 10, 2019 at 9:00.