

*Transfer Station and Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes*  
*Town Hall – Chenery Room*  
*June 10, 2019*

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

Also present: Robert Kennedy, Jr., Mary Pat McSharry, Kimberly Schubert, Trish Patt

Megan Sullivan called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. Mike Weintraub has resigned—his teaching responsibilities are not aligning with our Monday meeting times. Megan intends to have someone else take over chairmanship of the board, and Nancy volunteered to chair. This change was supported by the committee.

May minutes were approved.

Revolving Fund

There is about \$5,000 in the Revolving Fund.

Plastic Reduction Initiative

Andy and Megan are working on a flyer and a letter to merchants with tips for the transition to the Plastic Bag Ban implementation to be distributed this month. Also planning some kind of communication for closer to the ban's effective date of November 1, 2019.

Organics

Bobby, Maurice, Jean, and Megan met to discuss the organics program. Recognizing that we are eligible for 2 Recycling Dividends Points (worth \$1200 state reimbursement, \$600 each) because of our organics collection (while making backyard composters available at a discounted price) and with assumed data included for weeks that no data was available, the economics of organics collection does not look as dire as we felt at the May meeting. It is very close to break-even and if we can inspire additional use (pounds) it will be at least that. Jackie had offered at the last meeting to help with promoting organics composting.

Jackie and Megan are pursuing having an informational table at the MEMO Thursday summer concerts at the Gazebo. Bobby offered that the new recycling/trash containers may be in by the end of this week, and that it might be good PR for the implementation of those containers to have one also available at the organics/concert event. Kim Schubert, Trish Patt, and Cat Sauro have offered to help Megan and Jackie staff the table to promote the organics collection through conversation with attendees. We would love to have help at other summer dates. Discussion included that concert cancellation due to rain is reported on the MEMO website.

Swap

The Swap has been open for 6 weeks and but currently is not as overwhelmingly busy as it was for the first 3 weeks. Loads are delivered to the Epilepsy Foundation trailer daily. Some HS students and some Boy Scouts are expected to be pitching in. There is a new "triage area" where items that may soon be tossed are located near the dumpsters --"Last Chance—Today only". The increased number of items

coming into the swap has required that items be triaged/sent to trash & recycling more quickly and frequently than in previous years.

Nancy counted 25 parking spots and estimates that there are at least 300 cars/day coming to the swap area.

Bobby reported that paving around town is just getting underway so that paving in the Swap area is on the horizon. Nancy and Mary Pat were wondering about orienting the Epilepsy trailer perpendicular to the fence/road to allow more Swap parking, but that might force Epilepsy drop-off into the road which would not work. The current orientation is best for Epilepsy Foundation to unload the trailer end-to-end (frequently a 2-hour operation) and allows that the Epilepsy off-load truck not be in the roadway. Bobby suggested it would be preferable if Epilepsy Foundation were picking up loads on Tuesday or Thursday when the Transfer Station is not open. Nancy will contact them to see if that can be arranged.

Many breakable items are placed in the Epilepsy trailer without protective packaging which results in broken items. Also, some people are breaking open and taking things from bags and boxes in the Epilepsy trailer; that also leaves items much more vulnerable to breakage. There was a suggestion of leaving bags in the trailer, but people pilfering items might take those, bags don't protect breakables, and the Epilepsy driver has a supply of bags when he comes. No resolution about people breaking into bags/boxes and removing items...Items in the trailer have been donated by residents to Epilepsy Foundation, and are not intended for non-Epilepsy distribution.

#### Medfield Green Month

Styrofoam recycling cost \$800 in May.

Members seemed to feel that we should continue with Green Month in October. People are always asking for electronics recycling (at the Transfer Station). The Swap tent would be available for Styrofoam at that time, which makes the collection less expensive. Megan suggested that a Green Month activity could be a recycling review—that people check their own understanding of what belongs in separated recycling/single stream/trash in a one-on-one conversation; that would also work well in the Swap area. Someone suggested that there be prizes.

There had been discussion of using Constant Contact and not having a flyer in the paper, but the online aspect of sticker renewal has not been consistent, so we will not have as many email addresses available as was anticipated. Megan will ask MEMO for the money to put the flyer in the paper (for October '19 and May '20).

#### Medfield Day, Sept. 14

It turned out that Andy had netted “Most Informational” for the TSARC/DPW booth last year, so our booth for this year is free! Jackie Alford has offered to coordinate the Medfield Day booth. Cat Sauro and Cheryl have offered to help. Megan cautions that they not undertake too much, but rather focus on a single theme with an eye-catching display.

#### Students

Amy Colleran, the new facilities director in Town, met with some parents of interested students about recycling in the schools. There are recycling bins in the classrooms and in the cafeteria, but none in the

lobby, theater or teachers' room. Kim Schubert may get involved in this student-generated concern and work with Cheryl Dunlea.

#### Public Space Recycling

Anticipate delivery of the containers this week.

#### Mattress Recycling Program

We voted in April to discontinue the Mattress Recycling Program if (as is the case) we are not set up to charge a fee to residents leaving mattresses. The online sticker renewal was the dry-run for the possibility, and it is not up and running just yet. In addition, there is no mechanism/system to verify that only people who have paid for the mattress disposal could actually dispose of mattresses. Until that is also in place, Maurice does not want to have a program that could be misused. Since February when the grant ended, the cost has been split between our Revolving Fund and the DPW. This will end July 1.

#### New TS Stickers

Registration for new stickers online is not yet available but the mail ins and walk-ins are available.

#### Financial

There was no new financial or operational information presented.

#### PR/Communications Plan

While interested in the idea, Maurice is reluctant to have Donna take on Constant Contact and would instead prefer that our committee runs with the program. Presumably Annette will work on disseminating information to Transfer Station sticker subscribers, with oversight from Maurice. The possibly greater task will be answering responses from townspeople. The approximately \$900 cost for an annual subscription to Constant Contact was approved by our committee to be funded from the Revolving fund.

#### Annual Report to Town Selectmen

The annual report is due June 30<sup>th</sup>. While we didn't achieve all our goals, we had many successes. We did have an impact in having the Planning Board require new multi-housing offer recycling, communications continued to improve, we are working to support student initiatives, the plastic bag ban was passed, etc. There are several items that will continue to be goals for the next year such as encouraging the Board of Health to develop Hauler Regulations. New directions might include plastic straws, Styrofoam, plastic bottles, etc. Nancy suggested that we should work to have regulations requiring planning for recycling in new nursery schools under construction in Town. We need more pro-active materials in print and in mailings. We need to work further on increasing recycling, as opposed to allowing residents to trash recyclables. Implementation of the Plastic Bag Ban goes into next year. Working with the schools is also a topic going forward. Megan and Nancy will take this input and prepare the report.

#### Professional Development Reports and Opportunities

Nancy attended the national conference for SWANA (Solid Waste Association of North America) when it was held in Boston in February. She shared some info:

- Lots of effort being put into EPR – extended producer responsibility, including for carpeting, mattresses and electronics
- Recycle Across America is promoting a program where the 5 main recyclables only are promoted and recycled and they are consistent throughout the US. They also discourage “Wish Cyclers”, where people put things in the recycling just in case it can be recycled. This is really just contamination and is one of the reasons the recycling industry struggles (the recycling isn’t pure/clean enough).
- The Atlanta Airport is working on a food rescue program (this diverts good food that was not served to populations that need free food).
- Many items in trash are harmful to the people who take/process trash, this includes needles, batteries and some electronics. This also affects air quality in places where trash is incinerated.
- More and more programs and efforts are happening around composting

Barbara Meyer attended the recent SEMRC meeting in Wrentham. One interesting take-away is that it looks like source separation (vs. single stream) may be coming back. We wondered how companies who invested heavily in single stream, such as EL Harvey, might react to this.

#### Tasks & To Dos

Thank you to Bobby, Jean, and Bill for refreshing the labels on the totes for plastic bag recycling totes/bins at the Transfer Station.

Next Meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 8, 2019 at 9:00. Nancy will preside and wants meetings to continue in the summer so our momentum continues.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40.