

TSARC January 11th 2021

Attendance: Jackie Alford and Megan Sullivan, co-chairs for January, Chris Carlin, Andy Costello, Cheryl Dunlea, Maurice Goulet, Bobby Kennedy, Barbara Meyer, Annette Wells.

Also present: Nick Milano

Meeting opened remotely through Zoom and being recorded

1. Reviewed and approved December minutes with minor changes, have quorum
2. Committee Chair/Organization
  - A) **New member:** Chris Carlin was nominated to join TSARC and request for approval will be sent to the Board of Selectmen
  - B) **Minute taker:** Kim Schubert has agreed to take the minutes by listening to the recording.
  - C) **Follow-up note taker:** Cheryl Dunlea will report out the follow-up to dos.
  - D) **Next chairs:** Jackie Alford and Andy Costello
  - E) **Meeting schedule:** There was discussion about changing the meeting time. We agreed there will not be a change. We will continue to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 9am.
3. TS Committee Initiatives
  - A) **Donation Bins/Trailer at Transfer Station:**
    - a. There have been several successful fundraiser textile collections with Bay State. Jackie Alford will look another collection for the beginning of February.
    - b. Jackie, Nancy and Megan met with representatives from CMRK who currently service the St. Vincent De Paul and the Hand Me Downs bins at the TS. They are willing to collect household goods which will allow the swap area to open and operate. In exchange, they would like to service all 12 of our textile bins, which would mean we would give up the other bins (including Goodwill, Epilepsy and Salvation Army). The committee was not completely opposed to this but didn't love the idea, although operating the Swap with someplace to take the household items is essential. Maurice cautioned about having a single vendor in case they did not live up to their stated level of service. He also suggested that there be an agreement in writing. We will conduct some reference checks and Megan will see if she can negotiate something in the middle. Megan will bring a more formal proposal back to the next meeting.
  - B) **Styrofoam:** Jackie is planning a Styrofoam Collection for the beginning of March. Each truckload of Styrofoam will cost \$350 to be hauled away and recycled.
  - C) **SWAP & Curb Alerts:** Confirmed that the trailer used for the mattress collections can be used as the SWAP overflow trailer so that any vendor found would not need to provide one, which may help with Megan's negotiations with CMRK. Curb alerts have been used less but Annette will continue to post about them weekly since they have still been used by 2-3 families each week.
  - D) **New Homeowner Letter:** Donna posted the letter on the TSARC website and a link that wasn't working in it will be updated. It was sent to several realtors in town and have heard back that they to plan to use it.
  - E) **Report on Schools:** A plan for working with the high school environmental club was created and topics for each month have been chosen as a suggested plan. Will be working on determining a contact person for each school. TSARC will help with providing resources for research and the students will determine what to do for each of the topics.
    - January: Styrofoam Collection
    - February: Automotive Idling
    - March: Water Conservation, outdoors and indoors

- April: Litter Collection, cleaning up an area and coordinating where various groups in town would conduct collections
- May: Classroom collection of Food Waste, planning for how the collection would work in the cafeterias if they can reopen in September and considering if classroom collections can be made possible this spring at other schools besides the high school

F) **Rain Barrels**: Will be discussed next month

G) **Talking Trash & Recycling Presentation**: We could sponsor a 45 minute Zoom program on the state of recycling in Massachusetts presented by the state's chapter of Keep America Beautiful. Chris will look into this.

#### 4. Transfer Station Operations

A) **Electronics Collection**: Will happen January 30th

B) **TS Stickers (2021-2022)**: Decided to recommend an increase in sticker price from \$100 to \$110. Recycling costs went up 6% for this year and incremental change would help avoid getting behind in the changing costs of operations.

C) **Updates for Brochure/Handout for TS**: Discussed further edits to the brochure. Many physical copies of the old brochure already exist and will continue to be used. Will contact Donna about having the updated one put online. The food waste program handout will be updated for online and laminated copies made of the earlier version will be added to the top of the TS compost bins.

D) **Pay as you Throw**: Andy spoke with the MassDEP Regional Municipal Assistance Coordinator Kathy Mirza in December about PAYT benefits, statistics and ideas. She manages 44 towns including Medfield and 23 of them are PAYT. Megan had previously discussed with E.L. Harvey an idea of separating cardboard from the single stream recycling to help reduce the TS recycling cost. They indicated it would not help reduce costs however, since cardboard is part of the mix their charge is based on and they already have the equipment/system to separate it. Separating it in Medfield would not help them make the cardboard more valuable to Harvey. Hope to pursue education in town about trash and perhaps conduct a waste audit.

E) **Mattress Collection**: Maurice indicated that he hopes to resume collection after COVID and is researching how payments could be conducted.

F) **Usage Report**: Single stream recycling was up 10% and trash up 12% this past calendar year compared to the previous year and 25.7% rather than 26.1% of material received was recycled. Budget for the TS will likely remain the same with necessary increases such as covering increased recycling costs but without additional funds for projects.

6. Funds - Revolving fund at \$3,400 after adding revenue received from textile drives and Recycling Dividends remains at \$25,828.

#### 7. Topics for Constant Contact Newsletter for January

- Electronics collection; possible Styrofoam collection in March with information on keeping it clean and what's accepted; information on how shredded paper should not be recycled.
- Additional topics added later include February 6th textile collection; curb alerts; request to not idle; transfer station hours; organizations accepting household items (Vietnam Veterans of America, Big Brother Big Sister, Habitat for Humanity); and the need for new TSARC members.

#### 8. Reports

- Sustainable Medfield - Several groups and some students attended the December meeting and the group is planning for Medfield to become a member of MassEnergize. The portal will give people a unified place to go to for information from different groups in town on how to reduce one's carbon footprint. Information about TSARC programs that benefit the environment could be included there.

#### 9. Additional Topics

- A special collection for shredded paper may be considered for a future event

10. Next TSARC meeting set for Monday, February 8th at 9:00am via Zoom. Adjourned at 10:23.