

TSARC March 8th 2021

Attendance: Andy Costello and Cheryl Dunlea, co-chairs for March, Jackie Alford, Chris Carlin, Nancy Irwin, Barbara Meyer, Megan Sullivan, Annette Wells

Also present: Sharon Lowenthal, Russ Hallisey, Nick Milano

Meeting opened remotely through Zoom and being recorded

1. Reviewed and approved February minutes with one change, have quorum

2. Introductions

- **Next meeting:** Cheryl and Nancy chair; May - Nancy and Barbara; June - Barbara and Annette
- **Follow-up note taker:** Cheryl
- Discussed having chairs for different subject areas of the committee's work to help the co-chairs for each month know who to refer to for information. Members will add their names to the list of the subject areas in the TSARC Drive folder.

3. TS Committee Initiatives

- A) **Donation Bins/Trailer at Transfer Station:** Megan spoke with CMRK and they would still like to service all 12 bins rather than just a few bins and the TS trailer. Nancy is discussing with the Epilepsy Foundation and Salvation Army about picking up items from the TS trailer. Megan and Nancy will continue to consider options for each of these vendors and the committee will discuss what plan may work best to support the SWAP at next month's meeting after the March 20th collection with Salvation Army.
- B) **Styrofoam March 6th:**
- A huge amount of Styrofoam was received, especially coolers, likely since the normal three collections were not held the past year. Quality was a concern since Styrofoam couldn't be checked as it was received during the high frequency of drop offs. Improvements for future collections could include having more volunteers and experienced volunteers when COVID isn't a concern, having a method to cover the tent floor in addition to sweeping to prevent Styrofoam from becoming dirty, having a Zoom call to review guidelines for the collection with volunteers and having an educational video for residents to help guide what could be dropped off.
 - Cost will be at least \$1,050 since likely around three trucks at \$350 each will be needed for this pick-up. Comparatively the cost reflects a year's worth of Styrofoam rather than one past collection. More Styrofoam would have been part of the pick-up but more went to trash than usual since not as much time could be spent removing tape/labels and digging out marks. Sherborn stopped their collection but was paying \$200/truck since they are closer to Conigliaro. Medfield TS paying is premium but the alternative is incineration of the Styrofoam.
 - More bags would need to be purchased before another collection and would add an additional cost but the cost would be greater than \$2/bag now plus shipping. For this collection, 38 bags were used from one roll by noon and around 20 more from another roll during the remainder of the collection.
 - Will be reassessing in a few months based on the situation with COVID whether another collection will be held in the fall
- C) **SWAP & Curb Alerts:** Curb alerts have remained on hold until warmer weather and may restart in another month. Nancy and MaryPat have been discussing with previous volunteers what to do about the SWAP and Nancy spoke with the SWAPs in Wellesley and Sherborn about the past year and their future plans. Sherborn did not open last year but may open this year and Wellesley opened last fall with drop offs and pick-ups offered on different days. Would not be possible for Medfield TS since only open during one weekend day. Will ask Maurice and Kristine

like last year what they recommend and the category of the SWAP for state guidelines. Curb alerts and monthly collections will continue even if the SWAP opens and could be an alternative.

D) **Report on Schools:**

- Megan, Jackie and Hilli Passas have had several Zoom meetings giving high school students information about environmental work happening in town and have given a survey to two environmental science teachers for students to select topics of interest. Working with more faculty hasn't been possible but have a foundation for working with the schools to build upon once students are in person at school again. Hope to have students' help with promoting the environmental warrant articles for town meeting and students are working on plans for a project for Earth Day.
- Megan suggested writing a letter to the school committee about having space for a dishwasher in the new Dale Street School. Many other new schools have been built without one and instead plan to use compostable trays. Committee voted unanimously to support advocating for dishwasher space and Cheryl and Jackie will write the letter. May work on having dishwashers added to existing schools in the future. The food service director would need to have a dishwasher in the budget by October for the March budget deadline.

E) **Presentations/Webinars:**

- Talking Trash & Recycling Presentation: Chris will ask Keep Massachusetts Beautiful about possible dates for the presentation to run during mid-April. Two people indicated general interest after Annette sent out last month's newsletter. The committee will work on promoting it to gather the 20 attendee minimum for the presentation and will contact groups such as MEMO, New N Town and the Medfield Lions Club, publicize it through the newspapers and the Patch and promote it through Facebook.

4. Transfer Station Operations

- A) **TS Stickers (2021-2022)**: 15 total for February with 24 replacements - 12 first stickers and 3 second stickers. Annette will contact Donna to add the email addresses from recent sticker purchases to Constant Contact. New stickers will be available soon, required starting July 1st
- B) **Updates for Brochure/Handout for TS**: Cheryl will check with Donna on the status of the updates to the website
- C) **Pay as you Throw**: No new information, will be discussed more at future meetings
- D) **Food Composting**: New laminated info sheets to be added to the bins this week
- E) **Mattress Collection**: In the process of considering logistics and hope to someday resume
- F) **Usage Report tons of recycling and trash**: Information has been added to the TSARC Drive
- G) **Funds**: Revolving fund at \$2,433.01; the previously recorded \$3,731.46 had not had expenditures removed. Recycling Dividends remains at \$25,828

5. Topics for Constant Contact Newsletter for April:

- Talking Trash & Recycling presentation; March 20th Household Goods and Textile Collection; thanking residents for participating in the March 6th Styrofoam collection with tips on how to prepare for the next one and suggesting Conigliaro and Insulation Technologies for recycling more Styrofoam; reminder about bringing soft plastics to grocery stores; transfer station hours; April 24th and 25th Medfield Clean-ups; and the need for new TSARC members

7. Reports

- Sustainable Medfield - Website where environmental groups in town can share information in one place is in development. Information on food composting was provided by TSARC members for the initial content. Met on March 10th with Jackie as the TSARC liaison.
- MEA - Several webinars on the environmental warrant articles at town meeting will be held in the coming months. Able to help with any PR contacts needed for TSARC initiatives.

8. Additional Topics

- Bay State Textile Collections
 - In January, 5,250 pounds were donated and received \$262.50 at \$0.05/pound. In February, 3,000 pounds were donated and received \$150.
 - Decided against doing a fundraiser with Savers despite receiving \$0.20/pound rather than \$0.05/pound for textiles due to the logistics of transporting collected items to Savers and the scheduling of a collection with Salvation Army working out
- Keep Mass Beautiful: State-wide clean up planned for September and they are looking for town representatives. They also run litter clean-up crews and send kits to individuals who sign-up

9. Next TSARC meeting set for Monday, April 12th at 9:00am via Zoom. Adjourned 10:42.