

TOWN OF KINGSTON, MA RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Minutes –February 7, 2023

Chairman Jean Landis Naumann called the in-person and online meeting to order at 9:07 AM.

Attendees: Jean Landis Naumann, David O’Connell, Gene Wyatt (Zoom)

Also in attendance was Todd Koep, MAC from DEP; Paul Basler, Superintendent of Streets, Trees and Parks; Everett Malaguti, Plymouth resident

The minutes of the January 3, 2023 meetings were approved (3-0).

The members discussed the recent Request for Quotes (RFQ) for an organics collection pilot. Only 1 response was received and that respondent will join the meeting later to answer questions. Another company declined to submit a quote because the start-up cost was prohibitive for a pilot but they are interested in an ongoing contract.

Paul reported that he has an upcoming meeting with a scrap metal vendor. He and Todd are working on submitting the information for the RDP grant. While compiling this information, he noted that trash volume is down 300 tons and recycling volume is also down. There was some discussion as to the reason for this but no conclusion. Todd reports he is seeing this tonnage reduction throughout the state and speculated it may have something to do with people returning to workplaces and no longer working from home. Paul reported more residents are purchasing second stickers. Gene observed that many of his new neighbors are using private haulers.

Jean reported she continues her discussion with the Health Agent regarding enforcement of the private hauler regulation and reporting requirements. At some recent point, the Board of Health Regulations were retyped and the entire Hauler Regulation was not included. Jean has brought this to her attention and they are contacting private haulers for reports Paul needs for the grant submittal. Todd stated there are currently no grants to cover the hiring of a recycling coordinator who could assist with this enforcement but RDP funds could be used. Paul suggested we ask SSRC for the position description they used and consider hiring a student over the summer. Jean will pursue this and coordinate with the Health Agent.

Justin from Black Earth Compost joined the meeting via Zoom and answered several questions pertaining to their response to the RFQ. Justin will send information on their compostable bag liners, pictures of their bins, information for educational flyers, a sample contract, pricing for the weekly pickups, list of acceptable materials.

Jean reported she continues to work with the Health Agent on implementation of the Plastic Bag Ban. There was discussion of how to spread the word about the Organics Collection pilot and the Plastic Bag Ban.

Todd asked about RDP spending in 2022 and expected in 2023 (RDP activities are reported on a fiscal year and spending is reported on a calendar year). Jean reported handing out flyers on composting and availability of home composters at the Agricultural Fair in September. There is also information about

this posted on a special recycling display in the Town House. Todd will send a link to Jean of a composting video that can be added to the town web page.

Jean reported balances of \$18,992 in RDP grants and \$4,723 in SEMASS grants. The upcoming expenses for the Plastic Bag Ban implementation and Organics Collection pilot will utilize much of these funds.

Jean will contact the SSRC about improved rebates for textile collection.

Jean reported she attended via Zoom the recent Reduce and Reuse webinar. The link for the recording of that webinar has been sent to the members.

Jean reported the SSRC is supporting the reintroduced expanded bottle bill and producer responsibility bill. The SSRC is also working on establishing a regional Hazardous Household Waste permanent station that would be open to all residents of the member towns. There may be grants to assist with the cost. Per Todd, DEP is encouraging the development of regional facilities and there are a few in western Massachusetts. Fewer companies are available to do the monthly collections previously scheduled by SSRC for the member towns.

The members and Todd discussed what languages are prevalent in Kingston and how to fulfill the RDP requirement that recycling information be available in those languages. It appears Cape Verdean/Portuguese language is needed. Jean pointed out that the town has a link to RecycleSmart on the town web site and Portuguese is one of the options. Gene suggested placing information at the Brazilian store in Kingston

Paul has agreed to have members of the Recycling Committee join him for a walk-through of the Recycling and Disposal Center to determine what additional or revised signage is needed to help educate residents on proper disposal of recyclable materials. Jean will contact him to set up a date. Gene will contact Wellesley to see what they have for signage.

Jean reported she had a meeting with Paul to discuss how best to promote the services available to residents at the Recycling and Disposal Center (RDC) and compare rates with private haulers. This will be coordinated with the new cycle of sticker purchases beginning June 1. Jean may also contact PACTV about doing an updated video of the services available at the RDC.

Jean asked if the members would be interested in doing a one day Swap event at the RDC. This could be done in early summer, and if successful, again in the fall. This would also be an opportunity to solicit volunteers for a more permanent Swap Shop. Gene reported he identified 5 software packages that would allow Swap Shop volunteers to self-schedule. He will sort through them to find one he would recommend.

Todd reminded the group that the Pay As You Throw program has a rolling grant period so communities can apply whenever they are ready to explore this option.

The next meeting of the SSRC is March 1 and Jean will forward the detailed information when received.

The next meeting will be in-person and on-line on March 7, 2023 at 9:00 AM. Future meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month whenever possible.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Landis Naumann