

MINUTES RECYCLING & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE 25 JAN 22

Meeting called to order by chairperson Jamie Ecker at 5:03 PM. Personal introduction provided by each person in attendance.

Members present: Jamie Ecker (chairman), Steve Weems (vice chairman), Stephen Wood (secretary protom), Chrissy Adamowicz, Thomas Rumpf, Lily Hatrick, Elise Hocking, Jennifer Hicks (secretary; arrived 5:23 PM)

Town personnel present: Kathy Wilson (councilor), Steve Walker (councilor), Jay Astle (public works director)

Public present: Bill Good

Members absent: Harry Hopcroft

Minutes of meeting 21Dec21: Acceptance moved by Steve Weems, seconded by Chrissy Adamowicz, approved unanimously.

R & S committee membership status: The R & S Committee presently lacks one member. Jay Astle reported that a few people have applied for the vacant position, with a last interview to be conducted late in February. Town Council should make decision to fill the vacancy in March. February will also be Elise Hocking's last month of service with us, and this will create a second vacancy.

Action: Jamie Ecker will speak with the Town Clerk about getting the second vacancy posted.

Subcommittee membership: Four subcommittees now exist:

Energy: Steve Weems (chairperson), Thomas Rumpf, Stephen Wood

Organics Recycling: Chrissy Adamowicz (chairperson), Jamie Ecker, Jennifer Hicks

Education: Harry Hopcroft (chairperson), Elise Hocking

Solid Waste Options: Steve Weems (chairperson), Jamie ecker, Jennifer Hicks, Stephen Wood

Much discussion ensued regarding the optimal number of members to serve on a subcommittee. Town rules require that whenever a quorum [50% or more] of the full committee membership is in attendance at a subcommittee meeting, public notice of the meeting must be given in advance. Occasionally full R & S Committee membership numbers only eight (as occurs now with our vacancy), such that a subcommittee gathering of four members would trigger this rule compliance. Requiring advance notification hinders spontaneity and will encumber the pace of work. We therefore decided to limit subcommittee membership to three persons. Whether an exception should be made for the already four-membered Solid Waste Options Subcommittee is yet to be determined.

Revision of the R & S Committee charter: We are now operating under a charter enacted 23Apr07. A new draft was approved by this committee 23Mar21, but never submitted to the town council for approval. The document was recirculated for reapproval or revision now. Discussion of several minor improvements ensued. The document of 23Mar21 was basically accepted, to have minor wording improvements made by chairman Jamie Ecker, then submitted to the town council. This decision moved by Steve Weems, seconded by Chrissy Adamowicz, then approved by seven members.

Action: Jamie will finalize the proposed revised charter with minor grammatical changes and submit to the Town Council for adoption.

Discussion on 2022 Committee Goals

Goal statements developed by Jamie Ecker, committee weighed in. Document is updated with comments. 5 areas of work. Stephen Wood moves to accept goals, Elise Hocking second. Unanimous.

Solid Waste & Recycling Update

Steve Weems discusses the updates from the subcommittee and where the transition to ecomaine is at this point. Things are still pending, and the subcommittee is waiting for numbers from the Town Manager's office in preparation for the next joint working group. Next meeting is in February - either workshop or public meeting. Once the joint working group meets and there are numbers to consider this will allow the subcommittee to make recommendations about the final arrangement.

Jay Astle provided an overview where the town is on this process. Still trying to work out a scenario that will be workable for the Council. Should have numbers by the first week of February.

Jamie Ecker points out that Current Casella contract has one more annual extension, and with that extension exercised this coming June, the current contract will expire in June 2023.

Jay Astle offers that the option to include another add-on year on the existing contract can be considered or set up a bridge contract between now and whatever we will do for a 10-year arrangement.

Chrissy Adamowicz wonders if this an opportunity to put the hauling out to bid for other companies to respond to the need.

Organics Grant, Execution Update, Next Steps

Chrissy Adamowicz reports that the subcommittee is not meeting every month any more - will meet 3rd Tuesday of every month. Chrissy is working with Jay Astle to set up a time to interview a candidate for the Organics Recycling Intern position. The subcommittee supports creating flexibility around hourly pay for intern - ie: increasing pay and reducing hours if necessary.

Jay Astle also reported:

- 2nd Agricycle compost drop off site at the Rec Center. - should be up by mid February
- Working to set up an interview with candidate for Organics Recycling internship in the next week.
- There are now 4 bins at the Public Works site...interest has grown by word of mouth and also because of the loss of one of the curbside compost services. So far, no misuse or contamination is occurring at this drop off site.
- Will add two more bins at Rec Center in next year's budget

Jamie reminded the subcommittee that the funding for the bins come from a Department of Environment Protection grant. The efforts are in place to reduce waste that is sent to landfill or incinerators.

Education Subcommittee

Harry Hopcroft, chair, is not present.

Jamie Ecker suggests that the new compost drop off is an opportunity for the subcommittee to ramp up education around that.

Chrissy Adamowicz asks Jay about the idea of setting up a town email alert system (Notify Me) for the R&S committee.

Action: Jamie Ecker, Harry Hopcroft, and Chrissy Adamowicz will meet to discuss establishing a system to have regular messages go through the

Grant Opportunities Update

ME Community Climate Action (Grant Opportunity Informational Link) Due date is March 22 and there are prerequisite steps (coordination and deciding on use for money). Town Manager is working to get this issue on a Town Council agenda for . The grant is \$50,000.

Federal Infrastructure Bill opportunities. Tom Rumpf shared information about these opportunities. Money comes through state departments and the town works directly with those agencies.

Discussion/Next Steps

Chrissy asked about the open town staff position that includes grant writing.

Jay said that that position isn't filled yet and doesn't actively seek grants but does help write grants as needed.

Chrissy asked about whether most of the open positions were new or vacated. Jay responded by saying almost all open positions were existing positions that were vacated. One planning position was made into two.

Jay explains that there is capacity within the staff to take on these projects.

Action: Jamie would follow up with Town Manager John Eldridge about starting the process ME Community Climate Action grant.

Public Comment:

Bill Good offered his thanks and good wishes for a happy new year.

6:33 - Tom Rumpf Moved to adjourn, Stephen Wood 2nd