

Brunswick Sustainability Committee Meeting January 26, 2021. Meeting via Zoom: 5.00-7.00p

Members present: Jamie Ecker (Chair), Jennifer Hicks, Harry Hopcroft, Steve Weems, Stephen Wood, Kay Mann, Dieuwke Zolas.

Staff present: Jay Astle (Public Works Director), Steve Walker (District 2 Town Council member)

Guest: Margaret Chingos (BHS environmental Club), Bill Good (condo association of River Road rep)

Call to Order: by the chair at 5.11P

Introduction and review of the agenda by the Chair

Motion to approve the minutes from December 22, 2020 by H. Hopcroft

Discussion:

Same paragraph amended to show that MWTE actually runs their turbines at capacity all year, but when material is short in the winter, *the additional material from other sources comes from the spot market.* Waste companies use the spot market and pay MWTE for the use of the incinerator.

Removed: BUY, MWTE does not buy the source material.

Motion by S. Wood to approve minutes as amended, 2nd by K. Mann

Approved: by unanimous vote of those present.

Staff Update: Jay Astle reviewed the changes in infrastructure to take place at the Graham Road landfill. Next week activity expected towards the closure of the landfill.

- Improvements to be made to the gravel area, presently not sufficient for long term use
- Change in fee structure
- Which materials will still be accepted?
- Making the processing areas to be self sustaining

Material that will still be accepted at the landfill are: scrap metal, white goods, brush/leaves/grass, clean wood waste, tires, universal waste, e-waste, empty propane tanks.

Currently wood debry is being chipped, mixed with sand and put in the landfill. Vendor for wood debry will need to be hauled need to be found.

Plan: Jay to provide the R&S committee with an update prior to next meeting. New Fee structure will need approval from Town Council.

Solid Waste subcommittee: Report by S. Weems (chair)

Paper: “ Benefits of using Eocmaine as Brunswick Solid waste processor January 2021” provided. This summary is for now not to be shared with the public.

Town manager and Town Council have the solar proposal for the municipality and school buildings. Discussions by Town staff with Ecomaine (John Eldridge spoke with Kevin Roche) and Casella are currently going on. Further meetings and discussions to take place in February and March.

The timeline is fluid and question when the information provided will be going before the Town Council? Proposal for R&S committee and BHS environmental club to be present at this Town Council meeting.

Organics Recycling: report by Chrissy Adamowicz (chair)

Village Green -, an anaerobic digester company at the Brunswick Landing reviewed with Margaret Chingos (BHS environmental club).Currently the company is reconstructing and hopefully back on line in 2022. Seeking local use of the captured natural gas.

Discussed possibility of second compost drop-off in town, ie Hannaford by the Clink building or Shaw's grocery store.

Plan: review of 2nd compost drop-off referred to organics sub-committee to explore.

Public Education: Harry Hopcroft (chair)

The need for a central place for all the educational material again reviewed, easily accessible by the towns people. Frustration expressed with the lack of ability to get the information on the Brunswick Town website. Currently the education is being spread by a hop-scotch way, email, some FB, the Times Record etc.

Plan:

- Stephen Walker to talk to the town manager about use of Town website
- How can we support J. Astle to get the info on the website
- Margaret has ideas for BHS environmental club to help with spreading the word.

Solar Energy: report by S. Weems (chair)

Meeting via Zoom with town employees on 1/22/21. Reviewed this is an urgent matter, providers of solar energy are very busy and while there is still capacity, we need to get a spot on the list.

Plan:

- Data is needed on electric use
- Need for list of qualified vendors to service Brunswick
- S. Weems to meet with the school superintended in February, 2021.

Street lighting: Report by D. Zolas (liaison)

Reviewed need for policy on street lighting in Brunswick and examples provided from other cities to be reviewed at next meeting. Meetings are every 3rd Thursday of the month.

Currently there are 1250 street lights in Brunswick, 1100 are rented from CMP. Savings of \$100.000 if the town purchases the street lights from CMP. Per S. Walker, the Town Council already decided to purchase the lights in the summer of 2020. Currently CMP does the maintenance on the lights. If Brunswick is responsible for all 1250, this may create an one time capital cost if many light bulbs go out at once. Town is already looking at vendors for LED lights.

Currently 45% of the town's electric bill goes to street lights. The Landing changed 10 years ago to LED lights.

Question was brought up, who controls the roads? Any other regulations we need to keep in mind?

2021 Committee Goals: J. Ecker

Jamie reviewed the feedback received from all committee members.

Priorities identified:

- Follow thru on solid waste and recycling sub-committees
- Focus on renewable solar opportunities
- Public education outreach enhanced
- Sustainability needs to be more embedded and question about the town responsibility for a sustainability plan? Does the town need to hire a sustainability manager?
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Discussion: About vision. Portland and S. Portland have been working together for 18 months on a sustainability plan, transportation, buildings, solid waste and resilience. Should Brunswick start a coalition with Bath, W. Bath, Harpswell or any other town close by?

Plan: J. Ecker to create a written memo for the Town Council with the 2021 goals for the R&S committee. Does the town council agree with the plans?

J. Hicks willing to be a liaison towards sustainability and create an economic, social and environmental vision.

Other business, announcement:

C. Adamowicz reviewed the Recycling Reform bill which died in 2020 due to COVID and is coming back on the table this year for the State to review.

J. Hicks spoke with Maine standard biofuels and would like Roger Strickland to speak with the committee in regards to providing biofuel for the fishing fleet.

J. Astle will be on a conference call sponsored by the DOT about the use of biodiesel for the municipality.

S. Weems has done a redraft of the R&S committee chapter, to be discussed at a later date.

BHS Environmental Club: Margaret Chingos. Lila will be the BHS liaison starting next month.

- Club willing to help with outreach of information. The club has 20-30 students weekly in their meetings.
- Email Margaret with ideas how the environmental club can help?

Meeting adjourned by chair at 7:03p, 2nd by K. Mann.