

The Zoom meeting began at 5:05 p.m.

Present: Phyllis Hanlon, Cathy Jolicoeur, Deborah Marquis, Kathleen Walker

Phyllis read the minutes from the January 14, 2021 meeting. The committee requested the deletion of a sentence regarding the Board of Health; a correction to the spelling of Kara Hmielowski's name; and clarification regarding Earth Day activities.

Kathleen moved to approve the minutes with the amendments; Cathy seconded the motion. All approved.

The committee asked that Phyllis send the minutes to all committee members prior to a meeting.

The committee also suggested that Deb send the agenda to all committee members prior to a meeting.

Deb reported that she recently completed the 12-page 2020 Recycling and Solid Waste Survey for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) with the help of Kara Hmielowski. Completion of the survey is necessary to qualify for a \$1,000 small scales grant. The completed survey is due February 15.

Deb reported that this year's survey included a question regarding the local schools' involvement in recycling programs. She contacted the schools to find out what kinds of recycling programs they have in place; they reported that they have a contract with Casella.

The committee discussed Earth Day plans and how the Recycling Committee would participate. Deb noted that the Recycling Committee has recycling-related coloring books and can make them available to volunteers on April 24, the day on which Charlton will celebrate Earth Day. Deb, Cathy, Kathleen and Phyllis are also members of the Earth Day committee.

Deb had emailed Jason Bleau, the reporter for the Charlton Villager, and invited him to the March or April Recycling Committee meeting. She also offered to have a phone conversation with him. She had not heard from him at the time of this meeting.

Cathy had emailed Lisa Westwell, the woman who organized the town wide yard sale in previous years. Cathy discovered that the event was a fundraiser. Participants paid a registration fee and their names and addresses were included on a map. However, some people did not pay the registration fee, but held their own yard sale. The committee tabled the idea for now but indicated that it might consider such an event in the future. If the Recycling Committee did resurrect the town wide yard sale, people who want to participate could advertise on the Recycling Committee Facebook page.

The committee discussed the issue of multiple trash haulers for the town. Kathleen said that perhaps in the future Charlton might have one town wide hauler, which would decrease the

amount of truck traffic on the roads. She reported that currently 200 households are using the Casella waste site every Saturday. She added that next year residents will have the option of disposing of yard waste at the Charlton Town Barn.

The next Household Hazardous Waste Day takes place on March 27. Items should be brought to the Casella facility in Southbridge. Vouchers for Charlton residents are available at the Board of Health office.

Deb reported that Go Green Solutions delivered the remaining items from the Recycling Committee's order. The committee spent \$244 for small kitchen scrap buckets. The grant has now been completely spent.

Former members Roland and Nancy Jackson were storing small composting buckets at their home. Since they are no longer part of the Recycling Committee, they delivered these buckets to the town hall.

Kathleen reminded the Recycling Committee to submit a report to the town annual report, which is due March 4.

Deb noted that she had a flyer, which outlined the guidelines for disposing of textiles. She will send this to Phyllis who will post the information on the Recycling Committee Facebook page.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 5:00 pm. The meeting will take place via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Hanlon