

The Zoom meeting began at 5:08 pm.

Present: Phyllis Hanlon, Deborah Marquis, Kathleen Walker

Phyllis read the minutes of the February 11, 2021 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Jason Bleau, a reporter for the Charlton Villager, interviewed Deb and used her comments in an article published in the March 12 edition of the Charlton Villager titled “Anti-littering campaign touted as a success.” The front-page article highlighted the outstanding response to the Charlton Recycling Committee’s call for citizens to participate in the Keep Massachusetts Beautiful initiative. More than 60 people, the largest response of all cities and towns that participated, committed to cleaning their neighborhoods.

Deb informed the committee that she had submitted the Charlton Recycling Committee’s report for the Annual Town Report.

The group discussed the next Hazardous Waste Day, which will take place on Saturday, March 27, from 9 am to 1 pm at the Casella Waste Services Facility at 135 Barefoot Road in Southbridge. Kathleen noted that Casella will also take yard waste. The library has posted the event on the sign in front of the building. Deb will ask Andrea to create a new flyer for the March Hazardous Waste day. The Facebook page will also advertise the event and remind citizens that vouchers are available in the Board of Health office at the Town Hall.

Deb reported that the remaining funds from the Go Green Solutions grant were used to purchase more coloring books; all the grant funds have now been used.

New Business

In June, the Recycling Committee will have an opportunity to apply for another grant. The group discussed items for which the funds might be used. The committee currently has plenty of kitchen scrap buckets. Deb suggested a picnic table constructed of recycled materials for the Common. Town Hall employees and town citizens would have use of the table. Deb also suggested signs that read, “Please clean up your street, thank you.” Deb will solicit advice from Irene Congdon on possible ways to spend the grant funds.

Deb raised the idea of holding a paper shredding event sometime this spring or maybe simultaneously with Earth Day.

Kathleen suggested that the committee include a ten-minute brainstorming session at every meeting to generate creative ideas. All ideas should be recorded and then whittled down for more in-depth discussion.

Kathleen also recommended the committee explore what recycling efforts other towns in Massachusetts have undertaken.

The information on the Charlton Recycling Committee web page needs to be updated. Deb will contact Jeff at the Town Hall and ask him to remove Roland and Nancy Jackson's names, since they are no longer members of the committee.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Phyllis seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 pm.

The next meeting will take place on April 8, 2021 at 5:00 pm on Zoom.