

The Zoom meeting began at 5:03 pm.

Present: Mike Cunningham (by phone), Phyllis Hanlon, Cathy Jolicoeur, Deborah Marquis, Kathleen Walker

Phyllis read the minutes from the April meeting. Kathleen made a motion to accept; Cathy seconded. Minutes were accepted unanimously.

#### Old Business

Deb mentioned that 60+ vouchers were distributed for the March Hazardous Waste Day but only 24 were used. There is another Hazardous Waste Day at the end of June at which time these vouchers can be used. Phyllis will post a reminder on the recycling committee Facebook page. Deb will ask Andrea to add some new language to the Hazardous Waste Day flyer that suggests citizens offer to bring hazardous waste from neighbors and the elderly to the disposal site. The committee agreed to table the discussion until we have more details.

Kathleen talked to Jim Philbrook and he said he would request the same amount of money for the vouchers in the next budget. She will contact Jim and ask him to encumber the money.

The committee discussed using funds from the Board of Health for No Littering signs. Deb had researched the cost of signs and reported that they ranged in price from \$15 to \$25, depending on the size.

Deb pointed out that the committee needs to tell the Highway Department where the hot spots are and to make sure signs are placed in those locations. She noted that the committee had purchased 12 or 15 signs in the past; in her travels around town, she has seen six of them.

Additionally, the issue of placing a fine amount on the No Littering signs was raised. Kathleen indicated that to put a dollar figure on the sign, we would need to apply for a bylaw change. The process involves contacting the bylaw review committee with a request to put a fine amount on No Littering signs. The town attorney would then create a draft and citizens would vote on the measure at the town meeting. Since the town meeting took place in May, this matter would have to be introduced at the October town meeting. Kathleen said she would find out when the bylaw review committee meets again. The committee agreed to table the discussion until we have more details.

#### New Business

The committee discussed possible items to purchase with the Small Scales grant money. In recent months there have been few product sales at the Town Hall since the building has been closed to the public.

Deb suggested raffling off one of the big compostors at the Old Home Day event. She also noted that she had found a Bokashi composting system for \$137. After discussing the product features, Deb made a motion to buy one of these systems; Mike seconded the motion.

Deb had talked to Neil Rhein of Keep Massachusetts Beautiful about making Charlton a KMB chapter. She said that our committee would receive a lot of support from KMB in our recycling efforts. Kathleen made a motion to become a KMB chapter; Mike seconded the motion. Kathleen suggested that once Charlton's request to become a chapter is approved that a committee member go before the Board of Health with the news.

Phyllis suggested using the grant money to purchase reusable, compostable bags that replace plastic. She will look into this product for more details.

Deb spoke to Irene Congdon, the liaison from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), who suggested the committee create educational material related to recycling for the community. The content could include the drop-off sites for the Oxford household trash and the hazardous waste as well as other relevant information. These flyers/brochures could be inserted into the tax bills, which would spare the committee the cost of postage. Irene said the state uses Tiger Press for its printing needs; Deb will contact them for more details and pricing. The matter will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Kathleen reported that Adam Rydlak, a boy scout from Troop 165, contacted Andrea Humphries seeking information about the recycling committee. Andrea provided some details and Kathleen suggested the committee invite him to the next meeting. Perhaps the scouts could become involved in some way with the Recycling Committee.

Deb reported that Jackie Nowak had contacted her regarding a recycle box, sponsored by Colgate, for empty toothpaste containers and used toothbrushes. Cathy suggested such a box might be placed in the schools, but only for empty toothpaste tubes.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 10 at the gazebo on the Common.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Hanlon