

RECYCLING COMMITTEE 10/7/21 MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Deb Marquis, Kathleen Walker, Marissa DeJesus, Joe Mahaney, and Celeste Mahaney

ABSENT: Cathy Jolicoeur, Mike Cunningham

The meeting was called to order at 5:09PM

The minutes of the previous meeting of September 1, 2021 were moved to be accepted by

Kathleen Walker, seconded by Joe Mahaney, and unanimously approved.

Discussed the Committee's Zoom meeting with BOH from 9/1/21. During this meeting, the BOH members appeared to get caught up in the details of enforcement of proposed bylaw. Joe had a follow-up exchange with Pete Lancette to further explain the bylaw intent and Kathleen had conversations with the other Board members. Joe explained the Recycling Committee's stance that the bi-law is a way to make a statement that we are against littering, not that we think there will be many citations. Pete voiced that he was understanding of that. He stated that he wanted to talk with Joe again before the next BOH meeting. The Board will deal with that topic when they meet again in person. The Board would like to have Joe in attendance so he can explain the bi-law proposition. Kathleen stated next Zoom meeting is 10/12/21. Kathleen advised that we attend the in-person meeting. We need to go before the Board of Selectmen before going to the town meeting. We should try to get on the May town meeting.

Discussion about the littering bylaw ensued and Marisa felt that having potential fines printed on anti-littering signs may deter people who have littered in the past. It was also discussed that businesses which generate trash are required to have trash cans available to the public. The committee suggested placing stickers on these trash cans with the fines which could be incurred plainly on them. Joe volunteered to go to places like McDonald's and see if they have trash cans and ask about applying the proposed stickers on them.

Discussion that the All-Boards meeting is available online-summary of last meeting (video) can be found by going to the Town of Charlton site, quick link to watch public meetings (last on the list). The meeting is 3 hours long.

Deb Marquis talked about trying to have Charlton become a Mass Beautiful chapter member. Deb found out that becoming a chapter town would cost \$200-\$300 per year so we would have to use proceeds from selling products to pay for that. Deb isn't sure how to proceed and is awaiting a call back.

Deb reported that she handed out the hazardous waste vouchers in June and Sept, and that the vouchers get you into the event and you can then get rid of ½ carload of waste free. Electronics cost extra. (Staples will allow you to dispose electronics free at any one of their stores.) Next such event will be in December 4th.

Old Home Day- raffle tickets did not sell well. We had a composting unit and had 2 units for raffle- one worth \$50 and one worth \$150. Old Home Day is a very busy event and people are too busy with other aspects to bother with this type of raffle. Question was asked whether we should sell raffle tickets on our town website. But we thought that may not be allowed. We are likely to lose \$150 due to poor ticket sales. Perhaps many people aren't interested in composting. Often in-house composting products are cost-prohibitive. Deb showed us a picture of the rain-collection barrel the committee bought a few years ago. Tickets for this item sold well. But it was pre-Covid and sold at the Blueberry Festival and Earth Day.

Recycling website/Facebook page- no one has updated it in a long time. Joe asked Deb to send him the link so he can put something on it about the bi-law.

Deb handed out flyers for the Fall Cleanup which was 10/2/21, part of the Earth Day committee activities. People were able to pick up trash bags at the gazebo. Deb Marquis went to the ball field and handed out trash bags to folks there. Only 3 people came to the library where the trash bags were being distributed.

Deb Marquis reminded us that we need to come up with the next grant request. The product must be made of 30% recycled material and be listed on the state-approved list.

Joe reported on his findings regarding Mike Cunningham's observation that Oxford's public spaces are well maintained with flowers and greens. In comparison, Charlton's islands are weed-infested and ill maintained. Oxford Town Manager Jen Callahan spear-headed the beautification project in Oxford which is funded by a beautification grant left to the towns of Oxford, Dudley, and Webster. The earth planters which contain flowers and greenery are watered every two weeks and otherwise have a wicking system which provides ongoing hydration. The planters are changed 3 times annually and this work requires one fulltime equivalent to accomplish it all.

Kathleen suggested going to the selectmen who are currently negotiating w/ Amazon and Walmart and therefore we may have some leverage, to ask those businesses to invest in the town

beautification projects. Joe agreed to take pictures of areas in Charlton which would benefit from beautification. Marissa suggested putting messages on Instagram to attract young people's involvement. Kathleen suggested putting pictures of Oxford versus Charlton on Instagram. Many businesses want to know what they can do to show they are a part of the community.

Deb asked if we wanted to meet one week earlier due to Veteran's Day. Next meeting is 11/4/21 at 5PM in the library. Deb will post that on the website along with the agenda. Meeting adjourned at 6PM.