

Meeting Minutes

Cleaner Greener Hingham / Long Range Waste Disposal and Recycling Committee

Monday January 13, 7:00 pm at Town Hall

In attendance: Stephen Jiranek/David White/Katie Gallacher/Maria Zade/Janice McPhillips/Andy Ayer

Guests: Brad Moyer, Kirk Shilts (BOH), Britta Nielsen

Absent: Steve Collins/Pete Stathopoulos/Christine Nielsen/Katie Puzo/Randy Sylvester

1. **Energy Action Committee**

Brad Moyer (Chair, Hingham Energy Action Committee) in attendance, explained that group was formed 11 years ago and is currently in process of creating a comprehensive plan for carbon reduction across Hingham (both residents and businesses). This will be part of the Hingham Master Plan. Current thinking is that it will take approx. 2 years to produce a Climate Action Plan warrant to put to Town Meeting vote. Other nearby towns have been through this process (taking 2 years, or less time when hiring outside companies to assist in process, hence the timeframe given) include Reading and Concord. There is currently a rep on the working group responsible for drafting the warrant from Hingham Net Zero and Brad suggested CGH might want to put forward a rep as well. Possible input from CGH include methane production from waste and fuel involved in transporting trash/recycling from the DPW.

ACTION: CGH to decide on representation moving forward

2. **DPW Liaison:**

- a) Any updates from the Transfer Station?
Randy not in attendance; no update possible

3. **New ideas:**

- a) "Level Up" campaign

1/ Spring Sports - soccer, softball, baseball, lacrosse

Outstanding actions from Dec meeting:

ACTION: Andy to speak to Mark Thorell for input and to see how the agreements with sports teams & coaches work

ACTION: David call selectmen to find out how agreements with sports teams and coaches work for fields they manage

2/ Taste of Hingham -

Janice spoke to Taste of Hingham organizers who seem to be keen to continue promoting sustainability in 2020 event. In 2019 gave away reusable bags to attendees at door - suggested could give away reusable cutlery this year and reduce plastic given out by vendors.

ACTION: Andy to speak to Sue Sarni to see if reusable cutlery contravenes BoH regulations

3/ Beach Snack Bar -

Outstanding actions from Dec meeting:

ACTION: Katie G to reach out to Eatwell to see what their plans are with regards to composting/recycling/reducing waste

ACTION: Andy to speak to Sue Sarni re. BOH agreement with Eatwell

4/ 4th of July Parade -

Maria spoke to Parade Committee member who was enthusiastic about idea of prize for 'most sustainable' float. Parade committee meeting in January 2020 so will put it forward to committee.

Outstanding action from Dec meeting:

ACTION: Janice to contact Green Teams at HPS to see about CGH float idea

5/ Christmas in the Square -

No committee members attended 2019 event so little feedback about how could improve sustainability for 2020. Potentially more of a community outreach/education event

Outstanding action from Dec Meeting:

ACTION: Janice call Lynne Barclay re. CGH involvement in 2020 event

b) Other ideas for future meetings?

Hydration Stations for sports fields -

Not discussed

ACTION: Janice to add to Feb 2020 meeting agenda for discussion

Composting -

Idea of selling compost bins for RDP point not discussed

ACTION: Janice to add to Feb 2020 meeting agenda for discussion

Kirk Shilts (Board of Health) in attendance suggested committee should draw up proposal for a composting pilot program to be run at DPW. Discussed at length options for this, summarized as follows:

- Advantage to run pilot in winter as less people in town, less likely to smell, less bugs/rodents
- there are 2 waste haulers who could pick up garbage (technical term for food waste) from DPW for a fee - Black Earth & Troupe Waste. Need to evaluate each to see how they would best work for the pilot program. Troupe have single large collection bin for garbage, Black Earth have several smaller bins.
- Fee for pickup/hauling could be potentially offset by the RDP point payment so should be cost neutral to the town
- Need minimum of 400 participants to get RDP point
- BoH need input as food waste has potential health implications - need to preempt questions on storage, safety, pest control
- Suggested pick up date of Monday to minimize length of time garbage stored at DPW
- One idea was to run 2 pilots simultaneously - residential pick up by Black Earth and DPW drop-off by Troupe, therefore if there was an increase in vermin in areas where pick-up was being run, BoH would recommend drop-off moving forward

ACTION: Janice to speak to Black Earth and Troupe to get information on how pilot could be run

ACTION: Stucky to look into possible containers to store food waste at DPW

4. Newsletter –

Janice spoke to Municipal Assistance Coordinator about whether Anchor/Journal would count for RDP point and was not given a clear answer, however no longer need to produce a newsletter for the point as already cover enough other requirements elsewhere to qualify. Decided not to move forward with the 'Ask the DPW' column but submit simple 'Cleaner, Greener Hingham' column in Journal instead. Continue to put Green Tips on facebook page.

ACTION: Maria - write article for Anchor January (reducing food waste) & February (Valentine's Day)

Outstanding action from December meeting:

ACTION: Andy contact Amy McKeever about regular weekly column/space in Hingham Journal

5. Education and outreach "campaigns" we are working on or have discussed:

a) Bag bylaw

Kirk Shilts from Board of Health (BoH) in attendance to give feedback. Applicants for extension to use plastic bags expected in February - 2 businesses (1 downtown and 1 at Derby St Shoppes) have approached showing their intent to ask for an extension. They will have to show exact numbers of bags they have left to use and their sales in order to work out exact length of extension (but no longer than 6 months).

Complaints of companies in town still using plastic bags can be called in to BoH

b) Facebook Green Tips

ACTION: Andy will schedule green tips for facebook page between now and June

c) Demonstration boxes at Transfer Station

Boxes are up at the dump

QR codes are on the side but should be moved to the front to be more visible. Stucky sent photos & info to the Anchor and Journal for publication

n (but Andy to include on Sustainable Hingham Facebook page

d) Website - What Must I Recycle document needs to be approved by Randy to use parts to update CGH website for Demonstration Box QR codes

No update

e) School Green Teams

No update

6. Approval of Minutes from 11/7/19 meetings

Approved

7. Items not reasonably anticipated 48 hrs. in advance

In February committee has to produce and annual report (3rd week in Feb?) giving a review of the previous year and future plans

ACTION: Janice to add this to February 2020 agenda for discussion

Next Meeting - February 10, 2020 at 7pm