

Agenda/Minutes

Cleaner Greener Hingham

Long Range Waste Disposal and Recycling Committee

Tuesday 1/15/19, 7:00 pm

Town Hall

In attendance:

David/Katie/Stucky/Andy/Brenda/Randy/Pete

Absent: Janice/Brian/Steve C.

7:04pm meeting called to order

7:00 PM DPW Liaison

- a) Update on Transfer Station recycling?
 - a. Pace Glass, NJ -- no longer accepting our product.
 - i. Not due to contamination rate
 - b. Will go from \$30 → \$60/80
 - c. More aggregate crushers are going live
 - d. Shadow Boxes (3 boxes)
 - i. Stucky has prospective individual interested
 - ii. Possibility to do more. Randy will consider options
 - iii. Needs approval
 - iv. Couple with Earth Day clean up
 - v. Brenda offers to walk around the Transfer Station to do site visit w Stucky and individual
 - e. Mattresses
 - i. DEP grant paying for mattress recycling coming to a close at the end of the month. Looking into company in Rhode Island
 - ii. Randy writing letter to Selectmen to charge for mattresses
 - 1. Proposing \$20/per mattresses (supported by Committee)
 - 2. Free DEP funded mattress recycling program ends January 2019
- b) Impact on Hingham DPW costs of proposed plastic bag ban per Randy Sylvester
 - a. \$7k -- \$10k to the Town
 - i. Got numbers from estimating recycling costs
 - ii. Because we separate we are not charged as much as towns that do single stream recycling

- iii. Paper needs to be clean -- no plastics/glass
- iv. Currently paper recycling costing \$30/ton
- b. factored off of Claire's estimate of
 - i. 14 bags pp (man/woman/child)
 - ii. based off of all households in Hingham
 - iii. subtracted what we use now
- c. Supports the importance of reusable bags
- d. Plastic bags can be recycled in separate collection area for them but cannot be included with any other recyclables (no bagging of recyclables going into other collection areas) at Transfer Station
- e. Message to residents is to clean up recycling. Cleaner carefully sorted materials are more likely to get recycled and at a lower price

7:15 PM: Report of Bag warrant article sub-committee

- a) Public Meeting feedback
 - a. Andy give recap on Thursday night
 - b. ~50 ppl in attendance
- b) Other feedback
 - a. Screen "Plastic Ocean"
 - i. Andy looking into licensing of movie
 - ii. 22 minute version is idea
 - iii. Stucky in talks with Loring/Shipyard movie theatres
 - iv. Stucky → Green Teams
 - v. Check HHS academic/arts/sports calendar
- c) Review, discuss and vote on language of bag bylaw and vote re submitting for the Town Meeting Warrant
 - a. Small business exception requested by
 - i. Maggie's Dog House
 - ii. Whitney Gordon
 - iii. Committee opted to keep language as is- Andy stating that Section 5 "right to a hearing" could be used to request exemptions
 - b. Keeping in language of "compostable" as they are regulated whereas biodegradable is not. Best option for right now.
 - c. Grocery Stores
 - i. Whole Foods does not use plastic bags
 - ii. Fruit Center is phasing out plastic bags and encouraging reusables
 - iii. Stop & Shop in other towns where plastic bags have been banned are using paper bags, with 40% recycled content
 - d. Should Farmer's Market be specifically identified in the list of places where plastic bags will be banned (raised by Janice)

- i. Committee: No but “store” should be written as “Store” throughout bylaw to denote the formally defined use of “Store”
 - e. Plastic bags thickness (submitted by Janice)
 - i. Committee votes to keep language as is
 - f. Reusable bag language in stores (submitted by Janice)
 - i. Committee votes to leave it to the stores. Will supply language to individuals and businesses for implementation
 - g. Add language to Purpose & Intent advocating reusable bags (Submitted by Steve Collins) → Committee agrees to change language to reducing waste, reduce environmental impact of paper bags.
 - h. Language around cost (Submitted Steve Collins) → committee votes no
 - i. Change needed to address CVS’s action in other towns of offering thicker bags (submitted by Janice) Committee votes no, current requirement of reusable bags required to be 4mls or thicker covers this
 - j. Committee officially voted in support of language per above 6-0
- d) Designating a representative for the Committee re the by-law proposal
 - a. Andy to represent CGH
 - b. Warrant review dates by BoS and Advisory TBD
 - c. Brenda to introduce Andy as CGH liaison Tom Belyea/Karen Johnson
- e) Next steps in education on the warrant article
 - a. Interested parties
 - b. Technology
 - i. Andy confirmed that newsletter has not been emailed out in 6 cycles, only posted on DPW webpages
 - ii. Create new module in list serve that is dedicated for CGH
 - iii. Katie Puzo to become moderator on Hingham Facebook account
 - iv. Model after Boston’s reusable push
 - v. Instagram
 - 1. Kate checking on social archival ?
 - vi. Email
 - 1. Town is google email
 - 2. Ghost email with distribution list
 - 3. Needs more Committee thought. One person would be dedicated for answering emails
 - vii. Going forward
 - 1. Get social handle as well ?

- c. Transition plan
- d. Andy make changes → Send to Tom Mayo's office tomorrow → Language to be approved by Town Counsel

8:30 PM: Community Outreach/Education

1. Power Point Presentation -- Proposal by Brenda (to send to Committee via email)
 - a. Bite-sized chunks
 - b. Enlist David's help for story board
 - c. Andy → update slide show → send to CGH committee
 - d. Katie to help Andy with Power Point updates
 - e. Brenda → Slide on the history of the plastic bag ban
2. Online Survey
 - a. Capped at 100 (free version of survey monkey)
 - b. Andy → ask Kate if we can do on the Town website
 - i. 85% for the ban
 - ii. Independent surveys popping up around town
 1. 124 votes yes
 2. 3 votes against
 3. 13 for replacement by biodegradable
 - c. Bags
 - i. Lower income residents who need bags
 - ii. Need to research this
 - iii. Impact on Food Pantry - Brenda will contact
3. Outreach
 - a. Groups
 - i. Linden Ponds → Katie
 - ii. Restaurants → Katie
 - iii. Andy → send the list of outreach groups
 - iv. Senior Center
 - v. Green Team → Stucky +1
 1. Head up with High School
 2. Confirm reusable
 - vi. League of Women Voters → Janice
 - vii. Democratic Caucus → Andy
 - viii. Republican Caucus → Andy
 - ix. Faith-based → Katie
 - x. Sports team → Andy
 - b. Additional public meetings- Brenda check on available dates at Library
 - c. Media
 - i. Offer Hingham Journal/Patriot Ledger opportunity to write article
 - ii. Use photos of Fruit Center and Whole Foods signs promoting BYOBag if possible
 - d. South Shore Recycling Committee Director, Claire Galkowski's letter to the SSRC board re impact of plastic bag bans on municipalities
 - i. Position paper has caused dissent in the community
4. Winter newsletter: Articles due to Steve C by 1/18
 - A. Bag warrant article info Steve J,

- B. Businesses that offer discounts for bringing your own cup Janice P,
 - C. Reduce Straw Use Katie P
 - D. How to keep reusable bags clean Brenda B
 - E. Mattress recycling Brenda B
 - F. Economics of recycling and News from the Transfer Station Steve C.
5. Suggestions for recycling, waste reduction, and sustainability ideas for Green Tip of the week Facebook posts
- a. Use a general one for this week
 - b. Brenda → Educational tip on refuse
6. Planning re information for residents using haulers re recycling- to be prepared for sending out with HMLP bill later this year
7. Updates from SSRC and MA DEP
- A. Opposing views on plastic bag ban
 - B. Zero Waste Solutions- [new recycling facility opening](#)
 - a. Rochester, MA
 - b. 3500 solar panels on their roof (~30% of energy needed)
 - c. Brenda and Randy to investigate possible partnerships
8. Earth Day Clean up Event - date April 7
9. Approval of Minutes of 12/11/18 meeting -- approved

Next meeting date: February 5