

Meeting Minutes

Cleaner Greener Hingham / Long Range Waste Disposal and Recycling Committee

Wednesday January 19th, 2022, 7:00 pm via Zoom

In attendance: Janice McPhillips/Maria Zade/Katie Gallacher/Mark Engel/Alyson Anderson

1. Follow up on Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) projects for 2022

Maria talked to Matt and Randy at the Department of Public Works (DPW) who gave the go ahead for Zero Waste Day, Repair Event and Reuse Guide as potential options to earn more RDP points in 2022. Todd Koep, Hingham's Municipal Assistance Coordinator (MAP) (tkoep@town.halifax.ma.us) informed Maria that, since Hingham currently gets one point for the Library of Tools, we cannot get any additional points from these projects. These rules may be updated when the new RDP is rolled out (currently no date for this to happen). The committee discussed these events and decided that the Zero Waste Day could be an option whereby we could partner with a local business (e.g. Fruit Center or via the Hingham Downtown Association) to install Terracycle boxes for people to drop off hard to recycle materials (eg toothpaste tubes, plastic bags etc). We need to apply, and be accepted by, Terracycle in order to run these events as a Municipality. **Action: Maria** to contact Downtown Association about setting up location to install collection boxes

2. Update on CGH Handbook

Katie has not completed her review/updates. **Action: Katie** to finalize and send out to the committee for review before the next meeting

3. Single Use Plastic Bylaw

Mark reviewed Northampton's Plastic Reduction and Sustainability Ordinance and reported that it was very comprehensive (it is available for review on the City of Northampton webpage https://northamptonma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16941/20114-Plastic-Reduction-and-Sustainability-Ordinance---FINAL_Certified?bidId=). Maria reported that if you have 2 'bans' there is an RDP value - Hingham currently has a Plastic Bag ban so introducing a second 'ban' could earn revenue for the DPW. It was decided that we should target a smaller goal such as plastic straws, styrofoam containers, or single use water bottles. There are currently 13 municipalities with plastic bag bans, and more than 10 towns with single use plastic water bottle bans (including Concord, Sudbury, New Barrington, and Falmouth). The committee decided that we should plan for proposing a new bylaw at Town Meeting in 2023, so would need to have a bylaw written and a warrant article submitted by January 2023. This will need a lot of community input and so we should start working on this project immediately.

Next steps: Maria and Mark to form a subcommittee to work on this. **Action: Maria and Mark** to contact the Town and also look at other town websites to find specific examples of bylaws banning the sale of single use plastic water bottles

4. Review and discussion of Pay As You Throw (PAYT) updates

Alyson sent an update to the Selectboard (SB) last week that showed that the lbs of waste per person in Hingham had increased from 2010 to 2020 and also compared these amounts with the other benchmark towns. Weston recently (2020) changed to a PAYT system and Janice spoke to them to get feedback. (they didn't have to change a bylaw to implement this change in system). They did lots of community education - Zoom meetings, Q&A table at the Transfer Station (TS), Town Administrator sent several email blasts to the residents

Action: Alyson to follow up with Liz Klein (SB) to find out the next steps

5. Update of Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Sustainability Director (SD)

Climate Action Committee put out an RFP for a consultant to write the CAP but had no applicants. This will cause a delay. SD position (shared with Cohasset) has been included in the proposed budget by the Town Administrator who also included a Grant Writer position, who would be responsible for writing grants for both the CAP and also across other town departments. These positions would not start until July as the budget needs to be approved at Town Meeting

6. Calendar of Monthly Events

January - Showcase the Lending Library. The Library was having new floors installed so this event could not take place

February - Childrens' Event - 'Make a Worm Bin' set for Tuesday 22nd February 2022 @10am at the Whiton Room. - this was also postponed as the Library floors are being replaced. New date proposed in April vacation

March - Kids Sports Equipment Swap - **Action: Alyson** to contact Jess Matthews at Hingham High School (HHS) to see whether they would be interested in running this event

April - Outdoor Movie event - **Action:Katie** to follow up with Derby Street and the Shipyard about running this event (email sent 11/23/21)

Townwide Cleanup Day - **Action: Katie** to organise

May - Hazardous Waste Collection organized by South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC) **Action: Janice** to email Claire Galkowshi (director@ssrcoop.info) to add Maria to the email distribution list

7. Items not reasonably anticipated 48hrs in advance

Maria submitted a warrant article with Tina Sherwood (CGH's Advisory Board liaison) to change the length of term served on CGH from 2 years to 3 years and decrease the number of members of the committee from 9 to 7.

Action: Katie to send copies of approved meeting minutes (October -December 2021) to the Helpdesk (helpdesk@hingham-ma.gov) for posting to the Town website

Action: Janice to contact the Helpdesk to update the CGH email contacts with Alyson and Marks emails

8. Review of Action Items from Previous Meeting

All covered above

9. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the December 14th 2021 meeting were approved

Next meeting: Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 7pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted, Katie Gallacher