

Meeting Minutes

Cleaner Greener Hingham / Long Range Waste Disposal and Recycling Committee

Tuesday June 7th, 2022, 7:00 pm via Zoom

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

Apologies: Alyson Anderson

Guest: Beverley Vernon, Penelope Pint

1. Water Bottle Ban Update - discussion with guest Beverley Vernon

Beverley led a group of 3rd Grade students at East Elementary school in 2019 who put together a presentation for the School Committee (SC) about banning the sale of plastic water bottles in Hingham Public Schools (HPS). The SC told the group that they would consider it, but that was before Covid when this initiative was obviously put on hold. The State has provided free lunches for all pupils for the last 2 years and will announce in mid July if this will continue for the 2022-23 school year, which is important as much of the school lunch budget previously came from the sale of bottles of water in the schools. Beverley feels that if we can show that there's no loss of profit then there would be no pushback from the Administration. The plan was to encourage pupils to use reusable water bottles, however it is acknowledged that many end up in Lost and Found. Beverley feels that there is definitely momentum in the school body to drive this forward and that this could be shown by holding a poll in each school to show how many students supported the ban.

Maria spoke to the the Food Services Director (FSD) at ***** (Maria please insert), where this policy was successfully implemented, who had plenty of ideas of how to offset any loss of revenue from stopping the sale of plastic bottles of water.

We need to start before the school budget has been finalized. Principals start working on their budgets in October, with the SC putting the final budget together in January. Janice is going to restart the All School Green Team meeting in September, which would be a good place to encourage involvement within each school.

Maria spoke to Art Robert (Assistant Town Administrator) who was very supportive of the initiative and said there are 2 options to put this before Town Meeting; either with a citizens' petition, which would need 10 signatures or as a Select Board warrant article.

Maria also spoke to the Board Of Health (BOH) who, whilst not opposing the idea of a ban, would not have the staff to police it.

Mark suggested that we write a draft By-Law so that we have something tangible to present at public meetings - it should be based on one that has already passed in another town in Massachusetts as this will have already been vetted by the Attorney General.

Maria is writing an anti-single use plastic op-ed on behalf of CGH including the information from the DPW that the town is currently paying more to recycle plastic than if it were to dispose of it in the trash **Action: Maria**

Beverley Vernon and Janice to write a draft presentation to put forward at public/business meetings **Action: Janice and Beverley**

Janice and Mark to compile a list of groups to present to and when they meet **Action: Janice and Mark**

Priority to meet with the new Superintendent of HPS (starting in position in July 2022) to put forward this proposal **Action: Katie and Mark** to arrange a meeting in early August.

2. Clothing Swap Planning

Postponed to the fall as the HCC director had family matters to attend to. **Action: Maria** to follow up in July.

3. Water Bottle Filling Station Follow Up

Research has been completed on the various options. Now up to the Weir River Water System to decide a budget and locations. CGH will continue to support as needed.

4. HMLP Composting Initiative

Janice installed an Earth Machine (not New Age Composter) at HMLP and did a brief presentation on composting for employees with Peter Swanson. Initial reports are that the program is being well-received and that the bin is being filled. **Action: Maria/Janice** to follow up in September to see if HMLP is interested in expanding the program.

5. Calendar of Monthly Events

No updates.

6. Items not reasonably anticipated 48hrs in advance

Maria confirmed that Alyson can stay on the CGH committee.

7. Review of Action Items from Previous Meeting

No updates.

8. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the May 11th 2022 meeting were approved

Next meeting: July 5th 2022 at 7pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted, Katie Gallacher