



 | **RECYCLING** Minutes  
January 8, 2020

**Submitted by Claire Anderson**

**Attendance:** Claire Anderson, Nick Joanow, Louise Palagano, Mark Stulbaum, George Drossinos, Joyce Hilton, Oliver Young, Edgar Garcia, Michael Heller

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

Approval of minutes-December 11, 2019-The minutes were approved; George Drossinos moved to approve and Oliver Young seconded.

**A. Brookdale Gardens** - Joyce reported that there is a new super. He put out paper to be recycled when Joyce was watching, but when she returned later she saw that it had been put in the garbage container. She also hasn't seen the trucks that pick up paper coming in to pick it up. There are 2 sections(gated areas) that still don't have containers for recycling paper. Joyce will call the Health Dept. because they are having a rat problem.

**B. Recycling at the Schools** – A parent at Demarest School named Jeannie wants to start a recycling program at the school; it is for a girl scout badge. Louise has not heard back from her. Michael Heller thinks the Breakfast program recycling is working as he hasn't heard otherwise.

**C. Other** –Amanda Nesheiwat, who is the Environmental Commissioner in Secaucus, will be attending our meeting on February 12th to speak about the reasons for banning plastic bags as they did in Secaucus. Nick suggested she should discuss it in the context of how a sustainable community is developed. Oliver will invite the Environmental Commission to attend and all members should invite any other persons they know who would be interested in these issues.

The next paper shredding event will take place on May 9, 2020 in the parking lot of the Board of Education from 9am to 12 noon. Big Truck Day will be held on May 30, 2020 with a rain date of June 6, 2020. Louise will check on how many times the Recycle Coach app has been downloaded. George is concerned that the recycling yard is muddy; he thinks it should be paved.

Michael said that years ago Bloomfield adopted a sustainable schools resolution and nothing happened; now something may. Nick said there was a solar report on the schools done by a company called Renew by Design. They said that the roofs and the electrical system need to be up-to-date before solar panels could be put on the schools. The BMS recently got a new roof, so it should be a good candidate. Michael thinks the report was not comprehensive enough. They have to check with PSE&G about the electrical infrastructure in relation to sustainability for the whole town since the schools would be a micro-grid within the town. There is a town issue of diesel fuel being used in busses plus the schools are looking at installing A/C in a number of schools which would effect their electrical needs. Michael thinks the solar project is moving slowly, but that there is new leadership who may want to push it.

The Dream Mat project has been finished; Gaby would like to have signs at collection sites thanking all the people who donated bags.

Senate Bill S2776 which calls for reducing the use of single-use plastic bags should be out of committee on 1/13 and up for a vote.

There is nothing new to report at the Avalon apartment complex. Louise checked with Glen Ridge to see if Bloomfield could bring styrofoam to them; they were not enthusiastic about it because Bloomfield is so much larger than they are. They are taking it to Springfield once a month; Anthony says there is not enough manpower do that in Bloomfield.

There was a discussion of Terracycle in the schools; Michael Heller thinks it might be able to be put on the agenda at a Board of Education meeting. He thinks the budget is still being worked on, if the budget committee is aware of the issue they might be able to put something in the budget. Nick wanted to know if there is a line item in the budget for sustainability, maybe for \$5,000 or \$10,000, so schools could try various programs without having to ask for money over and over. We can ask the business office about specific numbers and line items. Mark suggested it may be better to work from the bottom up, by talking to school principals and the Home & School Associations. If several schools are interested, the Board may be more receptive. It was agreed that both should be done. We need to ask the school community what Terracycle boxes they think are the most relevant for them. George will work with Mark and Michael if they need help in trying to get the Terracycle program started in the schools. Maybe Terracycle would donate the first box. It will be a good tool to educate students and their parents.

The Bloomfield ordinance that was invoked when a homeowner was given a citation for not raking leaves is vague; the particulars of the citation are not known. Essex County may try to get the ordinance revised. At the SWAC meeting S2815 was mentioned as a law that would promote the proper disposal of paint products; Nick thought Essex County should review it. Christmas trees can be donated to the Turtle Back Zoo; they are recycling them.

Meeting adjourned: 8:20 pm.

**The next meeting of the Bloomfield Recycling Committee will be held on Wed., February 12, 2020 at 7pm on the 2nd floor of the Police Law Enforcement Building.**