



RECYCLING Minutes

February 12, 2020

Submitted by Claire Anderson

Attendance: Claire Anderson, Nick Joanow, Louise Palagano, Mark Stulbaum, George Drossinos, Oliver Young, Edgar Garcia, Michael Heller, Amanda Nesheiwat(guest speaker), Neal Gorfinkle(guest), Rich Moseson(guest-Environmental Commission)

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Approval of minutes-January 8, 2020-The minutes were approved; Edgar Garcia moved to approve and George Drossinos seconded.

Amanda Nesheiwat, who is the Environmental Director in Secaucus, spoke to the Committee about the plastic bag ban that was passed in Secaucus. She said that it went into effect on 2/1/20 and it is an outright ban. Consumers can bring their own bags or they can buy a paper bag for \$.10 to \$.25 depending on the size. These paper bags must be at least 40% post consumer recycled content. The money goes to the business; they were trying to be business-friendly. Walmart which is one of the largest businesses in town supports the ordinance and they have a system in place for complying as does CVS. They started working on the ordinance in January 2019 and it was passed in August 2019, including a plan for 6 months of educating the community before the implementation date. As part of the education, the town ordered 4,000 reusable bags to give out. Jersey City and Hoboken have also banned single-use plastic bags. A question was asked about consumers then buying plastic bags to replace the free store bags. Many fewer bags are used for garbage and they go to the landfill or the incinerator. They don't cause the plastic pollution that the single-use bags received in retail establishments do. The main focus of Secaucus's bill is to prevent the plastic pollution of waterways and parks and the harm done to land and sea animals. Secaucus banned styrofoam a few years ago. They give some leeway to small businesses as far as enforcement goes, knowing that it is more expensive for

them to comply. They have college interns who go around checking on whether the bags are being used. Approximately 106 municipalities have passed or will pass ordinances to restrict the use of single-use plastic bags. ANJEC, the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions can help communicate with other commissions and they have the numbers on NJ's various town ordinances. Amanda works with ANJEC and Clean Ocean Action due to all the bodies of water in Secaucus. She said Trex is an option for recycling plastic bags; they make building supplies out of recycled plastic. In Secaucus they recycle #'s 1, 2, & 5 as Bloomfield does. She suggested the Big Green Box for recycling household batteries. It costs \$63.00 and holds 43 pounds.

A. Brookdale Gardens - No report.

B. Recycling at the Schools – George thinks Terracycle containers should be at the schools as they would be more convenient than the DPW. Mark spoke to the principal at Oak View, they want Terracycle, the HSA will buy containers, maybe for snack wrappers. Louise spoke to Vicki, the Business Administrator, she wanted to know if the town could supply the schools with containers for recycling paper. Louise told her the schools would have to buy them, Vicki thought it would be too expensive. Mark suggested they could use any containers they have and just mark them for recycling. Trex has a school competition program to collect plastic film.

C. Other – Oliver said the Environmental Commission will be discussing what to do about the proposed plastic bag ban. Everyone would like the state to pass their bill, but it is hard to know if it will happen. The Environmental Commission is taking the lead in getting our Sustainable Jersey certification renewed, but they would like some help from the Recycling Committee. It has to be submitted by the Summer. Documentation has to be completed and the Township receives points for various activities that contribute to sustainability. The EC will review what has to be done and ask for help where needed. When we have this certification there are various grants that can be applied for through the program.

Anthony has agreed to purchase some containers from Terracycle to recycle water filters. They will be placed at the DPW yard. A notification can be put on Recycle Coach to let residents know they are available. George has a meeting with Terracycle tomorrow. We need to work with Trex to collect plastic bags, also with other supermarkets like Stop & Shop to collect them. George will contact Trex.

Nick thinks there should be an educational forum on the idea of banning plastic single-use bags. Edgar suggested we should invite students to support such a ban; it would send a good message regarding protecting the environment.

Meeting adjourned: 8:58 pm.

The next meeting of the Bloomfield Recycling Committee will be held on Wed., March 11, 2020 at 7pm on the 2nd floor of the Police Law Enforcement Building.