



**Minutes**  
March 11, 2020

**Submitted by Claire Anderson**

**Attendance:** Claire Anderson, Nick Joanow, Louise Palagano, Mark Stulbaum, Edgar Garcia, Michael Heller, Simon Galperin(guest)

Call to Order: 7:07 pm

Approval of minutes-February 12, 2020-The minutes were approved; Michael Heller moved to approve and Edgar Garcia seconded.

Louise reminded everyone that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 7th, it was changed from Wednesday due to Passover.

**A. Brookdale Gardens** - No report.

**B. Recycling at the Schools** – Louise and Nick attended a schools recycling meeting on March 2nd along with Lou Capella, the Sustainability Director and the Science Director for grades 9-12, Bill Manning, the Head Custodian and Vicky, the Business Administrator. Cardboard recycling seems to be working well, school custodians are delivering the overflow to the DPW. Lou and Bill will purchase more containers for all the schools. Bill said that the overflow comingled will be put at the curb on recycling days and hopefully will be picked up. Louise will reach out to Roselle about this change after speaking to Bill to see if it is working.

**C. Other** – Oliver was absent, so he was unable to give an update on what the Environmental Commission discussed at their last meeting. The state Senate passed their version of the plastic

bag ban, but it has not been voted on in the Assembly. Our guest, Simon, is working on the Bloomfield Information Project. He is attending various meetings in town. Louise reported that we have a new representative at Recycle Coach; Recycle Coach was not linked to the Bloomfield Buzz, that will be updated. Recycle Coach reported there are 1,567 users in town. When residents call the DPW, they are also told to start using Recycle Coach. Vinnie Nicosia from the Health Dept reported that a representative for Essex House came to a hearing on Feb. 6th and settled the penalty.

Anthony has agreed to purchase some containers from Terracycle to recycle water filters. One will be placed at the DPW yard and a second one will be at the Civic Center. A notification can be put on Recycle Coach to let residents know they are available. Terracycle is not being very cooperative; they told Louise that most of their orders are for \$1,000 or more, the \$300 we wanted to spend for 2 water filter containers is small for them. The forms for them to complete to become a vendor were sent to them, but have not yet been returned. A suggestion was made to purchase a larger order, then give to residents for cost. Bradley Beach is working with SC Johnson to collect plastic film curbside; Louise thinks we should do one program at a time.

Louise said when she did the tonnage reports she saw that recycling was up in town. She also announced that the Girl Scout troop that is doing an environmental badge will be having a tour of the DPW yard on March 14th. Troop 20042 is from Demarest School and is led by Jeannie Rojas. Louise, Nick and Oliver, representing the Environmental Commission, are attending;; other interested members are also invited. *The Independent Press* will also be there.

Nick is concerned about recycling contamination and preventing rejection of our recycling. He wants to make sure residents know not to put recycling into plastic bags and not to put garbage in recycling containers. This is a good project to give out info for; it would be good for groups of kids like Scouts. Louise said she and Ed are still working on a simple design for door-hangers that can be distributed town-wide. Michael thought that an anonymous video that doesn't pinpoint anyone in particular, could be made showing recycling done incorrectly.

There is a recycling bin at the Glen Ridge train station that only takes bottletops, since they are not supposed to be put in regular recycling. It is being paid for by Glen Ridge's Environmental Advisory Committee using donated money. Anthony reported that the financial impact of keeping the DPW yard open on Saturdays was "a wash". There are 3 employees required, one of them receives comp time and it costs \$300 for the other two. We save on the tipping fees for all the e-waste that is collected. Approximately 125 cars come in every weekend. The Environmental Commission is interested in doing an ERI(Environmental Resource Inventory) of the town, they are pursuing funding for this purpose; the inventory may include the presence of solar panels on homes. In celebration of NJDEP's 50th birthday and the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, NJDEP is giving a Salem Oak seedling to every municipality in NJ. Costco is publicizing what they are doing to reduce waste with a current target of 80% diversion from the waste stream; they donate leftover food to Feeding America and unused quality items to World Vision, so they can then be used.

Meeting adjourned: 8:09 pm.

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