



RECYCLING

Minutes

June 24, 2020

Submitted by Claire Anderson

Attendance: Claire Anderson, Nick Joanow, Louise Palagano, Mark Stulbaum, Michael Heller, Edgar Garcia, Oliver Young, George Drossinos(via phone)

Call to Order: 7:11 pm

Approval of minutes-May 13, 2020-The minutes were approved; Oliver Young moved to approve and Edgar Garcia seconded. There was one correction which Claire will make and resend the minutes.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Recycling Committee meeting was held in the Town Council chambers so all members could social distance.

A. Brookdale Gardens - No report.

B. Recycling at the Schools – Vicky, the BA, reported that they are collecting about 5 cardboard boxes 3 times a week from the meals being distributed. They have been picked up a few times and they will drop the cardboard off at the DPW when it is open. They will probably distribute food over the summer and the collection and drop off should be the same. Nick suggested maybe the schools can have their own boxes to collect water filters and Mark thought it was a good idea for schools to take a corner of the school lobby for recycling. They could collect water filters,

markers, etc; the corner could be decorated and they could have contests between classrooms. Michael will send an e-mail asking about these ideas.

C. Other –The DPW is planning to start the water filter collection in the Terracycle containers probably after July 7; the Civic Center is not yet open, so the other container will not be able to be used until it is. The new Buzz is coming out in July; the water filter box at the DPW will be mentioned.

There is no change regarding the state-wide plastic bag ban. California recently suspended its single-use plastic bag ban, citing sanitary concerns; other areas have done the same. Due to the pandemic, the price of oil has gone down, so virgin plastic has gotten cheaper, becoming competitive with recycled plastic. Recycling companies and environmental groups are worried that we will lose momentum toward reductions in plastic pollution. ANJEC put out a report comparing Montclair and Jersey City. The Environmental Commission is reviewing it and hoping to come up with good ideas for Bloomfield.

Regarding Trex, George thought we could store plastic at the DPW yard; Louise said there is no room. George will do some research on updating stores as to where they can bring the flexible plastic. The Town attorney said we are not supposed to use private companies like Java Compost to publish our literature. Java Compost was not interested in placing an ad in the Buzz.

Louise and Ed went over a draft of a door-hanger at length; they sent it to a printer who gave an estimate of \$3,000 plus for 15,000 door-hangers that would be distributed town-wide. Anthony wants to know who will distribute it. Suggestions such as the Boy Scouts, student organizations were made, but there is no definitive plan. Ed will look at the Buzz to make sure the information is the same. Michael suggested the information could be put on facebook or instagram, but didn't know the cost. Claire thought the door-hangers are a good idea because they reach everyone and probably those who don't use media often or at all. Information on battery recycling was sent to all the committee members; it was forwarded from Wayne DeFeo. There were questions about the best way to publicize this information to the residents of Bloomfield.

The shredding days that were cancelled are being re-scheduled. There will be one on August 1, 2020 and the next one will be on November 7. The location has been changed to Pulaski Park, 24 Mt. Vernon Ave.; there is less traffic than on Belleville Ave and there will only be one way out. The information will be in the Buzz.

Nick asked about grants that the Township might be able to get to help start our required food scrap recycling program. Taryn Pronko, our Grant Writer, said she didn't know of any at the present time, but said that Sustainable Jersey comes out with a few grant programs every year, so there could be something from them in the near future. We need to look at various options to be in compliance; a non-profit would probably be cheaper for local restaurants to afford. Nick thinks it is better to do commercial composting before we try residential; he thinks we should start with a core group of entities and then expand. Mark asked Louise if she could ask Anthony about putting food scraps in the same bags that the town collects containing vegetative waste. George said he thinks working on composting will be easier than trying to recycle plastics.

Louise and Nick will talk to the DOH about composting since they are already responsible for handling food waste.

Meeting adjourned: 8:23 pm.

The next meeting of the Bloomfield Recycling Committee will be held on Wed., August 12, 2020 at 7pm in the Town Council chambers in the Municipal Building.