



 | **RECYCLING** Minutes

August 14, 2019

Submitted by Claire Anderson

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

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Approval of minutes-June 12, 2019-The minutes were approved, Oliver Young moved to approve and Mark Stulbaum seconded.

A. Brookdale Gardens - Brookdale Gardens was fined \$3,000 for not recycling paper and cardboard; they also received a number of summonses for overflowing containers, so they were fined an additional \$3,000. Joyce had a picture she had taken that day showing the containers were still overflowing and rats were crawling around. The on-site maintenance person resigned; he was the one who would put paper in the trash containers. Claire brought in a letter written by John Mooney(former Code Enforcement Officer) in 2006 regarding a complaint by a resident of Brookdale Gardens that paper and cardboard were not being recycled.

B. Recycling at the Schools – A resident had complained that there were no containers at one of the schools. When the school was contacted Vicky sent Louise a picture of 3 containers, Louise and Vicky met about the situation. The schools want extra pickups of recycling, but the extra costs have not been budgeted; the schools sent a log of missed pickups so the town could contact Roselle about them. Louise is trying to convince the schools that the custodians should be able to deliver excess recycling to the DPW twice a month. Michael Heller said the schools have received extra money due to state budget corrections. Maybe some of that money can go toward recycling.

C. Other –The next paper shredding event will take place on November 2nd in the parking lot of the Board of Education from 9am to 12 noon; volunteers are needed. The date was changed because the County doesn't want us having events on the same dates as they do. There was no update on the Avalon Bay complex because of the attention being given to the water crisis in

Bloomfield. On National Night Out Louise was walking through parts of Bloomfield; she saw a lot of recycling containers out, it was a mess and many people had the wrong items out. She looked in some of the containers and saw some items which were not supposed to be there, such as plastic bags. Louise gets lots of calls from new residents about recycling; she explains the system to them. The NJDEP purchased an app called "Recycle Coach" for every town in NJ. It is being publicly unveiled in Bloomfield at the Council meeting on Monday, August 19, 2019, then residents can start using it to tell them when and what is being recycled each week. George wanted to know if we can add tips, such as, wash plastic containers in the dishwasher. Louise said we can; she would like events such as shredding to be listed there. Louise wants to add to the Buzz that no industrial or commercial recycling will be accepted by the town.

The Hefty bag recycling program is being re-considered, George will contact Louise about setting up a meeting about doing it; we would have to work with Roselle. Apparently it has been working in Canada. Louise said that at the present time there are no municipal employees on "light duty" who could possibly work as recycling inspectors; a suggestion had been made that maybe the Recycling Committee could go out on a meeting night and inspect recycling that has been put out. In other towns inspectors are effective at increasing recycling. Louise doesn't think it is worthwhile to have a table at the Harvest Fest since so many people come from other towns. She thinks we should concentrate on Bloomfield-only events such as National Night Out, shredding, events at the schools, Little League, Neighborhood Associations, etc. There will be 2 more events at the schools this Fall; Nick reported that the children really enjoyed the previous events. There are bins in Town Hall, the Civic Center and the Library to collect plastic bags; these will be woven into "Dream Mats" which are portable sleeping mats. Volunteers will make the mats and they will be donated to homeless individuals.

Oliver introduced a resolution to promote a discussion about banning single-use plastic bags in Bloomfield. The issue is stalled at the state level. The resolution was written by the Bloomfield Environmental Commission and they want endorsements from other community groups. In the discussion some members said many people re-use the plastic bags, such as for garbage and picking up pet waste; they would have to buy more plastic bags to replace the free ones. George thinks people get many more plastic bags than can be re-used. He said it is likely that they will be banned in Europe. Mark thinks that the main problem is the litter they cause, that an easier way to dispose of them is needed. He thinks plastic is better than using paper due to trees being cut and the use of chemicals used in paper production. George Drossino made a motion to support the resolution, Michael Heller seconded it. The motion passed 4-2. The Environmental Commission will review the resolution and may make some changes before presenting it to the Council. A copy of the final resolution will be given to the Bloomfield Recycling Committee.

Nick brought in information about a company in Springfield, NJ where you can take styrofoam to be recycled; he would like to see the town recycle it. Mark takes packing materials such as styrofoam peanuts and air pillows to UPS or Mailboxes so they can be re-used.

Meeting adjourned: 8:20 pm.

The next meeting of the Bloomfield Recycling Committee will be held on Wed., September 11, 2019 at 7pm on the 2nd floor of the Police Law Enforcement Building.