



 | **RECYCLING** Minutes

September 11, 2019

Submitted by Claire Anderson

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

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Approval of minutes-August 14, 2019-The minutes were approved with 2 spelling corrections, Oliver Young moved to approve and George Drossinos seconded.

A. Brookdale Gardens - Joyce was absent from the meeting; she sent an email to Louise to update us on the status of Brookdale Gardens. She reported a new garbage dumpster was delivered, but it doesn't appear to be any larger than the previous one. Also there has been no additional container designated for cardboard or paper and no notices have been sent out or posted by doors or mailboxes.

B. Recycling at the Schools – Jane Califf, who had complained that there were no recycling containers at the Middle School, was talking about the sport fields in the back. She had spoken to an employee who was in a Bd of Education van and was told the containers had been removed because they weren't being used properly. Michael Heller said that he had brought up the issue of recycling containers at sports events at a Board meeting, so it is now in the official minutes. Louise has not heard back from the Business Administrator about additional pickups. She was contacted by Joe, the Director of Facilities, wanting to know the schedule for pickups at the schools; she was able to get it from Roselle. Now the schools should be able to determine if there are missed pickups. Two more assemblies are going to be scheduled at Carteret and Franklin schools this Fall and then at 2 other schools in the Spring.

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. Jessi from the Health Dept went to the Avalon Bay complex to check on the recycling situation and she didn't see any

problems. George, who lives in the complex, will try to find out more specifics on the problems. Louise brought up the problem Claire had notified her about with Recycle Coach; they had listed the yard waste to be picked up on Labor Day. After she notified them, it was changed quickly. George wanted to know the process for putting tips, such as, wash plastic containers in the dishwasher, on the app. Louise said she will email the company.

The Hefty bag recycling program is being re-considered, but no meeting has been held yet. Louise is going to bring up the idea of municipal employees on "light duty", who could possibly work as recycling inspectors, at the September Safety Council meeting. 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. Gaby reported that they have collected 2000 bags which are enough to make 4 mats; they will be having a crochet class at the civic center on 10/3 and she is trying to get a senior organization involved in the crocheting and providing support for crocheters.

Oliver brought in a new copy of the resolution to promote a discussion about banning single-use plastic bags in Bloomfield. This resolution was passed at the previous Recycling Committee meeting. He said the only changes were taking excess verbiage out. Nick Joanow will put the resolution on the Conference Agenda Council Meeting on 10/7; he will introduce the resolution as an educational tool. Then the resolution has to be passed by the full Town Council; that meeting is on 10/28. After that it can be sent to other towns, the Mayor of Livingston said he could get traction if it is passed in Bloomfield. Recently both Belmar and Secaucus have banned single-use plastic bags. Mark reported that it would take 14 billion trees to produce the paper bags needed to replace plastic bags. He is sure that Shoprite would stop recycling bags if they were banned from using them and then there wouldn't be a good option for recycling them. Nick thinks that this resolution leads to a helpful discussion. In Denmark the average person uses 3 plastic bags a year versus in the U.S. it is 365 bags per year. Several members expressed frustration that clerks in some stores automatically put anything in a plastic bag, no matter the size.

Louise spoke to the Foam Pack company in Springfield, NJ about Bloomfield bringing styrofoam to be recycled; it has to be white, clean styrofoam delivered in clear, plastic bags. Nick said we should ask Anthony if there is room for a styrofoam dumpster. Oliver said we need a better recycling center; he also wanted to know if there were other companies that would take styrofoam. Anthony has said there was a machine that compresses styrofoam, Bloomfield could share it with other towns. Louise said they might meet with Anthony about this. There was a discussion about using Terracycle. They recycle hard to recycle items; there is a cost to purchase their zero waste boxes. Mark said they had a box at his school to recycle juice boxes, but it was hard to use because the juice boxes had to be washed which was difficult. They also had to accumulate 10 pounds before it was full. It was suggested that the boxes could be put in schools; you need a central location and they can also educate people about recycling.

Meeting adjourned: 8:15 pm.

The next meeting of the Bloomfield Recycling Committee will be held on Wed., October 9, 2019 at 7pm on the 2nd floor of the Police Law Enforcement Building.