



RECYCLING

Minutes

February 10, 2021

Submitted by Claire Anderson

Attendance: Claire Anderson, Nick Joanow, Louise Palagano, Mark Stulbaum, Edgar Garcia, George Drossinos, Michael Heller, Joyce Hilton Guest: Dominick D'Altilio

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

Approval of minutes-January 13, 2021-The minutes were approved-Joyce Hilton moved to approve and Mark Stulbaum seconded.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Recycling Committee meeting was held via Zoom.

DeFeo Associates

Dominick D'Altilio from DeFeo Associates showed a Powerpoint presentation about recycling in Essex County. DeFeo Associates does sustainability consulting. Dominick was the Recycling Coordinator in East Orange for 36 years. He is now a Solid Waste and Recycling Consultant for Essex county; 5-6 years ago he put plans together for SWAC and Recycling Coordinators meetings. He went over the NJ DEP 2017 numbers for recycling; the recycling tonnage numbers for Bloomfield are lower than most of Essex County. There is a \$3.00/ton recycling tax which is returned to the municipalities depending on their recycling tonnage; electronics recycling provides the greatest amount of tonnage. Most municipalities in the county do single-stream recycling. Louise pointed out that Bloomfield has no enforcement and it is needed; there are new apartment buildings being built and we need enforcement of business recycling. Dominick wanted to know if we had a liaison with Bloomfield College, wondering if we were getting numbers from them.

Atlantic Coast Fibers fire

There was a major fire at Atlantic Coast Fibers in Passaic; this is where Bloomfield and many other municipalities brought paper and cardboard for recycling. We will have to find another place for our mixed paper which could be difficult. Dominick reported that there have been several fires at recycling centers in NJ; Marcal burned down 3 years ago and Bayshore 2 years ago. He thinks they are usually caused by lithium batteries which are mixed in with the paper. The Burlington County facility has heat-sensing equipment which may have prevented fires there.

Recycle Coach

The User Report shows that the number of users in the last 30 days has gone up. George went through Recycle Coach and reported that the content was good; he sent an email to Louise regarding that.

Bloomfield Schools

There are no changes in recycling at the schools; no date has been set for the schools to re-open. Louise and Michael are still working on a meeting with the Finance and Facilities Committee from the Board of Education and the Recycling Committee to recognize Maschios; Louise suggested maybe at 6pm on April 14th, right before the Recycling Committee's regular meeting. Michael reported that the Board is voting on a District Sustainability Policy; they had the first reading and are looking for input. The proposed policy is on the Board website under Board Docs.

Covanta

The Powerpoint presentation that Dominick showed us illustrated how the Covanta incinerator works.

Plastic Bag Reduction law

There are no new developments regarding the Plastic Bag Reduction law. We are trying find funders to produce the reuseable bags that say Bloomfield Recycling on them. They will be given out at future events. Louise composed a sample letter to ask businesses such as banks, restaurants(once they come back) and developers to contribute and to have a chance to get their business name on them. Nick thought it would be better to get more smaller contributors rather

than a few large ones; he suggested we have a 3-person committee to work on it. He will be on it and Edgar since he is working on a design for the bags. He showed the committee a design with advertisers' names on one side. He thought 12 advertisers would probably be the maximum number that fit on a bag.

Food Waste bill

There was no response from Karen Lore, the Director of the Department of Health regarding assigning someone else to work on food waste. Nick will follow-up, although he thinks since she is very busy with COVID issues, that we may to wait.

Shredding Day

The next Shredding Day will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2021 at Pulaski Park from 9am to 12 noon. It will also be an opportunity to educate Bloomfield residents about the importance of recycling.

The next regular meeting of the Recycling Committee will be on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 via Zoom.

Adjournment: 8:14pm

The next meeting of the Bloomfield Recycling Committee will be held on Wed., March 10, 2021 at 7pm on Zoom.