

## **Bloomfield Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes for April 14, 2021**

The April Recycling Meeting began as a Joint Meeting with the Bloomfield Recycling Committee, BOE Finance and Facilities Committee and Maschio's Food Service at 6:03pm, prior to the committee's regular monthly meeting.

Maschio's Food Service was invited by our Board of Education Liaison Michael Heller along with the BOE Finance and Facilities Committee for the purposes of having a joint meeting with the Recycling Committee to discuss Maschio's Sustainable Jersey Recognition, Bloomfield's District Sustainability Policy and to begin discussions regarding the Food Waste Bill (A2371/S865).

Councilman Joanow began the meeting stressing the importance of sustainability and good food. He then introduced BOE Member and Recycling Liaison Michael Heller who welcomed everyone to the joint meeting. Michael then introduced Jessica Salinas, Chair of the BOE Finance and Facilities Committee, who also acknowledged other members of her committee, Ralph Walker, Kasey Dudley and Ex-Officio member BOE President Jill Fischman, as well as Vicky Guo, School Business Administrator, and from Maschio's Brittany McKernan, Joseph Maida, Joanne Crowley, Sharon Tepper and Patty Fragioudakis, Director of Operations who were all in attendance.

Maschio's spoke about receiving the Sustainability Business Leadership Award on October 28, 2020 as well as many of their accomplishments and practices in sustainability. They spoke about their various departments partnering with the schools with lots of fresh produce on acreage from farms devoted solely to Maschio's so that they could have on their school menus "NJ Farm to School." They listed several events they had at the schools in Bloomfield before Covid. Representatives also spoke about the "reimbursable meal" whereby students must have a fruit and vegetable each day. They also showed examples of their food's biodegradable containers and spoke about eliminating most plastics and all Styrofoam. Maschio's mentioned how they breakdown their cardboard boxes every day and drop them to the DPW Recycling Depot twice a week, including boxes for the condiments. Vicky Guo mentioned how the school administration is working in conjunction with Maschio's to educate the custodians and staff on recycling mandates and enforcement. In the near future, they will be starting a new milk carton recycling program with Oakview School which is being piloted at the high school right now. Councilman Joanow brought up careers in food

service similar to courses offered at Hudson County Community College and other 4-year programs, and that the high school should expand their courses to include culinary arts where Maschio's could be a guest speaker on a regular basis as well as restaurant owners as guest chefs to teach the courses. Maschio's stated that they actually have classes at another school district once a week every Wednesday with a different cuisine every week. Louise was asked to contact Mike Scurman, Recreation Director, about involving Maschio's in classes offered by the recreation department. The joint meeting ended with Maschio's showing photos from the "Farm to School" Apple Tasting at Watsessing School and a 4-minute video about Maschio's Food Services.

- I. **Call to Order Again: 6:48pm**
- II. **Roll Call:** George Drossinos, Ed Garcia, Joyce Hilton, Mark Stulbaum, Oliver Young, BOE Liaison Michael Heller, Councilman Nick Joanow, and Recycling Coordinator Louise Palagano
- III. Approval of Minutes: March 10, 2021-Oliver Young stated that there were two corrections to the minutes-under Bloomfield Schools and under Styrofoam Recycling—"he" is to be changed to "she" in both cases. Oliver then moved and Michael Heller seconded the motion to approve the minutes as corrected. All present approved the minutes.
- IV. **Old Business:**
  - a) **Recycle Coach- 30-Day Reports: 2021-03-07 – 2021-04-07**-Louise distributed the 30-day reports and summarized some of the highlights for the recycling committee. She did mention that there were two residents who filed issues on the "Problems Report." She said she followed up with emails to both of them.
  - b) **Recycling at Schools Update** (Michael)-Michael stated that hybrid school would be coming back in session on Monday, April 19th and he did review with the recycling committee the new schedule of in-person and remote learning. He also stated that there has been an increase in recycling with the schools in conjunction with the DPW Department.
  - c) **Coordinated Styrofoam Drop -Off Pilot Program Update**- Louise read Lyle Landon's March 17<sup>th</sup> email indicating that the Montclair DPW was hit with a bad wave of Covid, but they will let us know if and when the Styrofoam pilot program spoken about previously will take place.
  - d) **Recycling Logo for Reusable Tote Bag/Fundraising Letter Update**- Ed said he will share with Oliver and C/M Joanow another draft of the layout prior to our next meeting. C/M Joanow then asked Louise to locate a contact(s) to start pricing the tote bags.

- e) **Sustainable Jersey Recertification (Oliver)**- Oliver stated that the Environmental Commission will be re-submitting their Sustainable application in May.

**V. New Business:**

a) **Spring Shredding Event-Sat., May 8, 9-Noon, Pulaski Pk., 24 Mt. Vernon Avenue** -Louise announced the upcoming shredding event and mentioned that committee members are always welcome to help out that morning.

b) **2018 Generation, Disposal & Recycling Rates** -Louise distributed this document sent to all the County Recycling Coordinators which she received from Dominick D'Altilio on March 16<sup>th</sup>. She reviewed Bloomfield's rates as compared to other municipalities in Essex County.

c) **Recycle Coach-Recycling Contact Lenses (George)** -George reviewed his email discussion with Carly Lester from Recycle Coach regarding contact lenses, contact lens cases and the various types of plastic that these cases are. Carly stated in her April 7<sup>th</sup> email to him that she has now updated the description for the contact lenses on Recycle Coach and has added George's request to include the Bausch & Lomb program that accepts all brands of contact lenses, blister packs and top foil. Louise was asked to check with Roselle/Suburban Disposal on size limits, especially these types of small items to see if they are acceptable to recycle.

**VI. Next Meeting-Wed., May 12th-7pm, Virtual on Zoom**

**VII. Adjournment- 7:19pm**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Louise Palagano  
Recycling Coordinator**