

Bloomfield Recycling Committee Minutes

May 14, 2025

Submitted by Claire Anderson

Attendance: Claire Anderson, Louise Palagano, Bryan Crawley, Norm Sutaria, Michael Heller, Michael Giuseffi, Nick Joanow, Joyce Hilton, Ed Garcia, Brie Seferian

Call to Order: 7:09pm

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the meeting on March 12, 2025 were approved. Joyce Hilton made a motion to approve and Brie Sefarian seconded it with a correction to be made by Louise.

Recycle Coach

Last month interactions were up, but new subscribers for the month were down. Norm made a spreadsheet showing the items most searched for on Recycle Coach for the last two years; the search is asking how to recycle the particular items. The trends need to be analyzed, but some searches can be answered by already available services such as recycling clothing, furniture and magazines.

Bloomfield Schools

Louise received an email from Vicky from the Bloomfield Schools saying they already have a clothing bin at the Middle School. It is sponsored by a teacher and they want to keep the bin they have.

Old Business

We are still looking for a 3rd location for Turnkey Enterprises to place another bin for recycling clothing. There was initial resistance to having one at Felton Field, but there haven't been any complaints, so Turnkey appears to be doing their job in keeping the area clean. Bloomfield Shredding day is on May 17, 2025, Louise was asking for volunteers to check I.D.s and to give out flyers about recycling clothing, Recycle Coach and JAVA Compost. The Earth Day Green Fair on April 26, 2025 went well. The weather was drizzly and a little windy, but a fair number of people attended

New Business

There is a video available of several recycling centers such as Atlantic Coast showing how they operate. Wayne DeFeo, the environmental consultant who works with Essex County, can meet with the Committee to see it or we can hold a public event. Nick suggested that since there are always new members of our community who need to know how to appropriately dispose of numerous items, having a public event would be useful. We need to get the message out and having a meeting at the Civic Center with Wayne DeFeo would be a good idea. We should speak to him first to see what items to bring up. We also need enforcement of recycling. Brie suggested having a "Repair Clinic" in Bloomfield. Volunteers would repair resident's items, so they don't have to be thrown in the trash and can continue being used.

Brookdale Gardens

Joyce reported that maintenance staff at Brookdale Gardens are still emptying recycling bins into the garbage dumpsters when the recycling containers get full. They need to purchase a large number of new containers, so they are sufficient to hold all the recycling that residents put out. It was suggested that Joyce complete a COS(Clean & Strong) form in order to get it reported to the Health Department. Then a paper copy is also sent to the Admin Department.

Pumpkin Smash

Norm spoke to people in Glen Ridge about the Pumpkin Smash; they will speak to Joe DiVincenzo about expanding it to Bloomfield. Residents would need to register ahead of time, so the appropriate facilities could be set up. Norm also contacted Sean Schwindt, Director of the DPW, to find out how much it would cost for JAVA Compost to compost the smashed pumpkins.

Adjournment: 8:10pm

The next meeting of the Bloomfield Recycling Committee will be held on Wed., June 11, 2025 at 7pm.