



RECYCLING

Minutes
August 11, 2021

Submitted by Claire Anderson

Attendance: Claire Anderson, Nick Joanow, Louise Palagano, Mark Stulbaum, Edgar Garcia, Michael Heller, Joyce Hilton, Bryan Crawley

Call to Order: 7:12 pm

Approval of minutes-June 9, 2021-There was one change to be made to the minutes-the Professional Development day was entitled "Sustainable Jersey Schools". The minutes were approved with the correction-Joyce Hilton moved to approve and Mark Stulbaum seconded. Bryan Crawley abstained.

Bryan Crawley is a new member of the Bloomfield Recycling Committee; last November he was a volunteer at the shredding event at Pulaski Park.

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

Recycle Coach

Louise decided to give members a summary of the recycle coach report instead of the whole 20-page report; any member who would like the full report can request it from her. The largest number of searches were about furniture items. There were 5,507 users in June and 7,160 users in July; interactions were very high. There were 747 material searches; lots of Spring cleaning going on. Louise explained Recycle Coach briefly to Bryan.

Bloomfield Schools

There are no changes in recycling at the schools; milk carton recycling will start when school begins. Louise said it is important to have the schools involved in recycling since they generate a lot of volume.

Plastic Bag Reduction law

Edgar reported that the projected bag may be smaller than a Shop-Rite bag which is 19" wide and 12" high; the imprint area will be 8" by 10", this will be only on the front and back panels not on the sides. It was confirmed that the Bloomfield Animal Shelter will want an ad on the bag. Louise sent out the completed fundraising letter, so members can circulate it to local businesses. All members should try to contact some local businesses; they can contribute any amount they wish, depending on the size of the business; they will receive some bags to distribute at their business. The letter has our new logo on it and it will inform them about the new law which will go into effect in May 2022. Mark will contact Shop-Rite.

Recycling Trust Fund

All contributions for the reuseable bags will be placed into the Recycling Trust fund.

PSA on WBMA

Louise sent the new recycling schedule to Bob at WBMA to run on the air; he wants to get all the recycling information from the Buzz on TV.

Styrofoam Recycling

Claire spoke about her recent experience going to Foam Pack Industries to bring styrofoam for recycling. The company has a dumpster outside their facility where individuals could bring styrofoam and put it into the container. This time there was an employee standing on a nearby loading dock with a scowl on his face and a sign on the dumpster saying not to put anything in it. I showed him my bags of styrofoam. Since my bags were clear he could see that the styrofoam was clean and there was no garbage in the bags. He took my bags inside. He explained that

people had been putting garbage in the dumpster even though there were signs saying clean styrofoam only. The company now prefers not to deal with individuals, although there are a number of nearby towns who bring styrofoam on a regular basis. He mentioned Glen Ridge and Montclair as ones that dropped off regularly. Right now Bloomfield does not have a drop-off location or a system for transporting the styrofoam. The Depot is already crowded, so it would be hard to make room there.

New Recycling Contract

The town may hire De Feo to help with re-bidding our contract for recycling, Michael said that DeFeo was fantastic at the schools Professional Development day and he emphasized that single-stream recycling is not better. We are discussing with DeFeo the markets for recyclables and whether the town should change some of what is being recycled, particularly because the Depot has limited storage space.

Food Waste Bill

This bill will take effect in October 2021; towns will have to start reporting what is being done with food waste in their locale. Nick thinks it will be a crisis situation since the infrastructure is not ready in most places.

Shredding Day

The next Shredding Day will be held on Saturday, November 6, 2021 at Pulaski Park from 9am to 12 noon. It will also be an opportunity to educate Bloomfield residents about the importance of recycling. We hope that the new reusable bags will be ready to distribute.

The next regular meeting of the Recycling Committee will be on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 probably via Zoom, but that will be decided closer to the date. Mark wanted to know if North End electronics recycling will be happening again; Louise said she will check to see if it could be done in the Spring. Anthony thought that it was overkill since the town and the county both do electronics recycling.

Adjournment: 8:01pm

The next meeting of the Bloomfield Recycling Committee will be held on Wed., September 8, 2021 at 7pm probably on Zoom.