

Chelmsford Recycling Committee Minutes

March 7, 2019

Town Offices, Room 200, 7:00 pm

Members Attending: Mark Gallagher, Rebecca Gore, Aaron Cunningham, Jocelyn Demuth, Karen Willis, Stephen Maher

Members Absent: Kevin Goscila, Nick Parlee, Cynthia Fiekers

Business

Minutes

The February meeting minutes were approved, with revision.

Schools

Rebecca reported that the High School Eco Club had agreed to run the upcoming Town-wide Clean-up. Glenn Davison agreed to give his e-mail list of volunteers to the group.

The club has prepared a flyer for distribution and is planning the event. They haven't produced a video or magnet yet. However, Rebecca will follow up on the request.

The committee will also invite a representative to attend next month's meeting to determine if there are any issues that need to be discussed or if the committee can offer any support.

Volunteer Fair

The Volunteer Fair has been re-scheduled to March 23rd at the Senior Center. Rebecca will attend, while Jocelyn and Karen may be able to attend. It would be helpful to have representative from the Eco Club to help solicit volunteers for the Clean-up.

Plastic Bag Initiative

Committee members discussed the plastic bag initiative and possible town warrant article. Rebecca reported that representative Golden and Nagle have not signed onto the house bill that will ban plastic bags. In discussion with her state representative, it does not seem likely that the legislation will pass in this year's session.

Aaron discussed his plans and approach for a new town warrant article. It appears that the health issues, cost, and burdens on businesses need to be addressed. The committee may be able to provide free reusable bags to those that need them from the state recycling grant.

A June to July time frame would be needed for a new proposal. A message would need to be drafted for the Selectmen, and Finance Committee. The new proposal would also need to be supported first by the Town Manager.

Publicity

Karen reported that the recycling flyer has gone out with the property tax bills.

Jocelyn discussed designs for a recycling publicity magnet. It would need to be confirmed if the funding for the magnet would be eligible for reimbursement from state recycling grant funds.

Business Recycling

Jocelyn discussed the issues with business recycling. Members discussed previous programs to encourage environmental-friendly business practices in town, such as the GCI. It was agreed to try to collect data from towns and cities such as Westford, Lexington, Cambridge, Arlington, and Lowell to see what they are doing to promote business recycling.

Town Recycling Event

Committee members discussed a possible recycling drop-off event, which could be held in conjunction with the shredding day in the spring. In addition to shredding, there could be metal and paperboard recycling. The committee may also look for specific vendors that could offer furniture and mattress recycling.

Next meeting will be held on April 4th.