

Recycling Meeting Minutes 1-October-2020 @ 7:00 P.M.

Members Present (remotely) Lee Williams Rebecca Gore Karen Willis Betty Mattson Jocelyn Demuth Norm Eisenmann	Members Absent Mary Beth Hayes	Guests Present (remotely) CHS Eco Club Michelle Ly
Sustainability Manager Present (remotely) Melissa Joyce		

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

RECEIVED

2020-11-09

8:31 AM

Review and Approve Meeting Minutes - September 2020

The meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted as amended.

TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

PATRICIA E. DZURIS

TOWN CLERK

Eco Club Input

Clubs are likely to start in a couple of weeks.

The Eco Club will need to meet via Zoom due to in-person restrictions and that not all students are in school on the same days.

Last year's advisor retired, and the Eco Club is working on getting a new advisor.

The club is interested in working on media campaigns.

Sustainability Manager Update – Melissa Joyce

Grant Funding Status:

No updates received.

Recent Tonnage Totals

August solid waste and recycling numbers:

Textile Recycling 11,424 pounds (down from previous few months). Textile recycling is what is referred to as The Pink Bag program that does not cost the Town any money.

General Recycling 270 tons

Trash 888 tons

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Old Business

Plastic Bag Ban Status

On 25-March-2020 the use of reusable bags was prohibited in Massachusetts.

On 7-April-2020 the prohibition was re-emphasized.

On 10-July-2020 the prohibition was rescinded, and reusable bags were again allowed to be used in Massachusetts.

Due to the pandemic and most stores not allowing reusable bags the ban has not yet been enforced.

Probably the stores will be allowed to use up their stock of plastic bags, but not allowed to order more.

Melissa and Lee will work with Shaun Shanahan (Building Commissioner) to determine when and how to start enforcing the ban.

Hannaford: Using paper bags. Can only use reusable if customer bags their own. On duty manager was aware of the reusable bag prohibition had been rescinded.

Stop and Shop and Demoulas: On duty manager did not know that the prohibition against reusable bags had been rescinded. (Information provided by committee Members)

Upcoming Events

Shredding	24-October	DPW Yard 9 am to 1 pm
Household Hazardous Waste	31-October	DPW Yard 9 am to 1 pm
Leaves	21-Nov	DPW Yard 9 am to 1 pm
Yard Waste	21-Nov May not take place due to mills not accepting wood chips at this time.	Community Tree

Melissa Joyce requested volunteers to assist at the drop-offs.

Shredding

- Residents will stay in their car.
- DPW/volunteers will remove the paper from the trunk and put into wheeled carts. They will then close the trunk.
- The papers will then get shredded by the shredding company employees.

Household Hazardous Waste

- No upfront registration.
- Proof of residency will be required at the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) drop-off. Chelmsford and six other towns allow residents from the other towns to come to the HHW. Typically, the towns charge \$50/trunk load for residents of the other towns. Payment will need to be in the form of a check. No cash.
- No latex paint accepted. It should not be in the trunk.
- Residents will stay in their car.
- DPW/volunteers will remove the items from the trunk and close the trunk.

The committee discussed providing informational flyers and reusable bags to the residents at the HHW drop-off. Suggestions included

- ½ sheet, cute, bullets, not a huge amount of text

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- Can be discussion points between the committee members and residents in the line.
- Discussion points can be related to people not wanting to use reusable bags due to fear of contracting a virus from the bag. Infectious disease persons will need to provide the text.
- Discussion points could be related to recent changes to what can or cannot be recycled.
- Discussion points could be related to the upcoming change to the Public Power Contract to supply electricity to the homes in Chelmsford. There will be three options:
 - The standard option
 - Option that includes some green energy.
 - Option that is 100% green energy.

There was a suggestion that in the future the committee should encourage residents to leave their leaves on their lawns over the winter for the good of the environment. Storm Water Management may get involved in the leave issue.

Library Presentation Status

Potential Topics include:

- What can be recycled?
- Plastic bag ban
- Create video of the actual recycling processing
- Rain barrels and compost bins
- Karen and Lee volunteered to assist Melissa

Publicity/website Update

The existing Chelmsford Recycles website (<http://www.townofchelmsford.us/200/Recycling-Solid-Waste>) gets about 400 hits per month. Melissa also gets numerous calls with questions.

A very comprehensive listing of materials is on <http://www.chelmsfordrecycles.org/>. The committee discussed if [chelmsfordrecycles.org](http://www.chelmsfordrecycles.org/) should be updated to remove the list of recyclable items and simply reference [recyclesmartma.org](http://www.recyclesmartma.org). A final decision was not made. It was decided that a current committee member should take over the website.

The committee very briefly discussed if we should focus on website improvements or writing articles that will keep recycling/trash in front of our residents. Some members suggested doing both.

The list of Open Action Items was reviewed and actions that are complete and/or no longer relevant were removed. The meeting minutes will keep the action item list in order that each month we see to what we have committed. The plan is to keep the list to items that can be done between now and June 2021.

Review of Open Action Items

Date	Owner	Action	Due Date
1-Oct-2020	Lee	Send out suggestions on implementing the plastic bag ban.	
1-Oct-2020	Karen	Determine the cost to maintain the www.chelmsfordrecycles.org website	5-Nov-2020

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Date	Owner	Action	Due Date
3-Sep-2020	Melissa Lee	Work with Shaun Shanahan to determine a date for enforcement of the plastic bag ban.	
3-Sep-2020	Karen Lee Melissa	Work with the Library to develop videos on recycling and other pertinent topics.	
1-Oct-2020	Melissa	Send trash and recycling tonnages to Rebecca	9-Oct-2020
1-Oct-2020	Rebecca	Collate the trash and recycling tonnages data	
1-Oct-2020	Melissa	Check on the number of small reusable plastic bags used at stores that have previously been handed out at events.	24-Oct-2020
1-Oct-2020	Lee	Email the mission/vision statements from other local towns.	17-Oct-2020
1-Oct-2020	Norm	Submit the updated September minutes to the Town Clerk	9-Oct-2020
1-Oct-2020	Norm	Prepare the October minutes to the members and attendees.	9-Oct-2020

A short list of Long-Term Goals may be created, such as creating a recycling center.

New Business

Review committee name/mission statement

Suggestions were made to:

- Keep the same name for the committee.
- Expand the vision statement.
- Do not include water management or energy management.

Plastics recycling market

Deferred to next meeting.

Goals for 2020-2021

Consider what we can accomplish between now and June 2021.

Open Discussion

Business Recycling

The current town bylaws require companies that provide trash service to Chelmsford businesses to also offer recycling services.

Westford has tried to encourage businesses to recycle using photos of the trash, but it was not very effective.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn, and the motion was seconded.