

**Chelmsford Recycling Committee Minutes**  
**January 9, 2020**  
**Town Offices, Room 200, 7:00pm**

**Members Attending:** Rebecca Gore, Aaron Cunningham, Jocelyn Demuth, Cynthia Fiekers, Melissa Joyce, Lee Williams,

**Members Absent:** Karen Willis, Mark Gallagher

**Visitor:** Julia Greene, Mass DEP

**Business**

**Minutes**

Approval of the December meeting minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

**Schools**

Eco Club students are working on flyers about the bag restriction. The marker recycling program is going well. Cynthia will ask if they would coordinate the Town-wide Cleanup event again. Melissa will attend the next Eco Club meeting also, to help with coordination.

**Sustainability Manager's Report**

Waste Management / Recycling pick-up had issues in December around holidays and storms, when the full routes couldn't be finished each day. Residents called and received incorrect information about their new pickup date. Melissa met with Waste Management to request better customer service and communication. Melissa will also post updates to the town website, Facebook account, NewsFlash, etc.

Melissa is completing budgets for next year. We are in the final year of the hauling contract. The processing fee will probably increase. The incinerator contract will be affected by limits in capacity that can't keep up with demand.

**Publicity**

Mailing insert for real estate tax bills will be printed in early March. The flyer will advertise the Town-wide Cleanup, Spring/Fall drop-off dates, and include a notice about the upcoming bag restriction.

A new Communications Sub-committee is being formed to create a plan addressing where, how, and how often we communicate with town residents. Members are Karen, Cynthia, and Melissa.

**State Regional Coordinator Presentation**

Julia Greene, our regional recycling coordinator from the Mass DEP, provided the committee with a follow-up to her June 2019 presentation.

- A new Solid Waste Master Plan for 2020-2030 will provide goals for reducing waste. Massachusetts is a net exporter of solid waste.
- Greater Lawrence area is getting funding for an anaerobic digester.
- Waste to Energy (incinerators) is the best approach we have, but the ash is toxic.
- Mass DEP provides grants to help schools start composting. Funds can be used for personnel and equipment.
- Our current challenge is contamination in recycling. Billerica MRF provides processing of our recycling, to remove contamination. For example, frozen food boxes and black plastic are not recyclable. All MRFs are single-stream.
- Massachusetts is planning a statewide waste ban on textiles and mattresses. Textiles can be diverted to drop-off donation bins or SimpleRecycling.
- The recyclesmartma.org site has a Recycleopedia widget that should be on every town recycling website.
- Julia and Melissa have analyzed the Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) to determine what Chelmsford can do and how our committee can help to earn dividend points. Areas include: composting, repair clinics, zero-waste days, library of things, and textile recovery publicity.

### **Other Business**

Greener Chelmsford Initiative will be discussed at our next meeting. Lisa Marone has contacted Melissa.

Carlisle Recycling and Transfer Station will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Next meeting** is scheduled for February 6.

Members compiled a list of **action items**, which included:

- Melissa will send tipping totals from the past 2 years to the committee members.
- Cynthia and Lee will follow up on the Library of Things program at the Chelmsford Library.