


Recycling Meeting Minutes 3-February-2022 @ 6:00 P.M. @ Town Hall Room 200  
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<p><b>Members Present</b>                  Becky Soderman (remote)                  Karen Willis (remote)                  Kristin Champagne (remote)                  Lee Williams                  Norm Eisenmann                  Rebecca Gore</p>	<p><b>Members Absent</b>                  None</p> <hr/> <p><b>Guests Present</b>                  Somi Chowdhury Eco Club                  Advisor (remote, left at 6:30 p.m.)</p> <p>Jennica (CHS Eco Club) (left at 6:30 p.m.)</p> <p>Emily (remote, left at 7:00 p.m.)</p> <p>Debbie Tait (remote)</p>	 <p><b>Chelmsford                  Recycling                  Committee</b></p>
<p><b>Sustainability Manager Present</b>                  Melissa Joyce (remote)</p>		

**Call to Order.**

The Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Review and Approve Meeting Minutes – January 2022**

The 6-January-2022 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by unanimous vote.

**Eco Club Input**

- Spoke to the head of the CHS kitchen and CHS Principal Murray regarding setting up a composting program.
- They have approval to proceed.
- Will do a trash audit. May perform the audit the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March to determine how much can be composted.
- Considering a bucket for liquids, one for trash, and one for recycling.
- Melissa will go over to the high school in the next week or two to observe a lunch period to get an idea on how to setup the collection area.
- The ECO club will have a fund raising to pay for the buckets, etc.

CHS Eco Club and the NHS may be able to assist on the Town wide Cleanup.

There was a very brief discussion regarding a Zero Waste Day and what the ECO Club could do to assist. The Zero Waste Day will be during the next school year.

**Sustainability Manager Update – Melissa Joyce**

**TONNAGE TOTALS for December 2021**

Textile recycling (Formerly Pink Bags)	2891	Pounds
UTEK Mattress*	52	
Recycling	321.55	tons
Trash	951.81	tons

- Will use a weight of 60 pounds per item in recycling % calculations

**RDP Grant**

- The account for the RDP Grant balance is around \$40,000.
- Working to create a compost program that is sustainable.
- Have not purchased anything for the Library of Things yet this year.
- Will initially partially subsidize the curbside compost collection.
- The ECO club was invited to sit in on a webinar on school composting.
- Melissa completed the update of the RDP Grant.
- Working with other communities to help them start mattress recycling programs and an area wide program mattress recycling program.

**Recent Recycling Tonnages**

See Attachment 2.

**Old Business**

**Rebranding of website-Emily Pacht**

See update below under Publicity/Website Update.

**Recent and Upcoming Events**

EVENT	DATE(S)	TIME	LOCATION
Winter Farmers Market Table -Gave out 20 reusable bags. -They learned that Save That Stuff in Boston may recycle Styrofoam. Rebecca is investigating.	8-January-2022	COMPLETE.	Maxwell's
Pickup Rain Barrels and Compost Bins #	26-March-2022	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	DPW on Alpha Rd
Bulb Shed Open	6-April-2022	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Bulb Shed behind Town Hall

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EVENT	DATE(S)	TIME	LOCATION
Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off #	23-April-2022	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	DPW on Alpha Rd
Town wide Cleanup	Week of 22-April		
Bulb Shed Open	4-May-2022	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Bulb Shed behind Town Hall
Shredding Event	7-May-2022	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	DPW on Alpha Rd
Leaf Drop-off #	14-May-2022	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	DPW on Alpha Rd
Brush Drop-off #	14-May-2022	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Community Tree
Bulb Shed Open	1-June-2022	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Bulb Shed behind Town Hall

# Will need some volunteer(s) to assist.

Publicity/website Update

There are a few photos on the Google drive that can be added to the website. Rebecca will provide Emily with access to the drive and update the website.

Need to create some labels that we can stick onto the handouts with additional information on dates and the Committee website.

Review of Open Action Items

Date	Owner	Action	Due Date
4-Feb-21	Lee Karen Rebecca	Organics curbside pickup: Town request for bids; residents sign up and pay individually. Offbeet is one possibility. Karen has information from previous years.  As discussed at the September Meeting, the next step is to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP).  The summary of the survey is included in Attachment 3 to the minutes of 9-September-2021.  <u>UPDATE:</u> Melissa is working with the DPW Business Manager to finalize the bid package.	3-Mar-22
5-Aug-21	Karen Becky Rebecca	Contact the Tyngsboro Sustainability Committee to learn more about how they started, what they have learned, etc.  The initial plan is to have a collection in the Fall of 2022 in part due to the Tyngsboro drop-off is in the Spring of 2022. In 2021 Tyngsboro had two drop-offs.  Need to coordinate with the Center School and McCarthy PTO that has a Junk Day in the Fall.  <u>UPDATE:</u>	7-Apr-22

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Date	Owner	Action	Due Date
		Karen attended the Center School and McCarthy PTO event to start a conversation/coordination of their event with the Committee's planning of an event. She has also communicated with Ginger from the PTO on how to complement their efforts.	
6-Jan-22	Kristin	Setup a program to expand collection of plastic bags and plastic wrappers with Bags to Benches.  <a href="https://recycle.trex.com/view/programs">https://recycle.trex.com/view/programs</a>	7-Apr-22
6-Jan-22	Melissa	Melissa plans to send us a copy of the new, more competitive RDP goals.	3-Mar-22
3-Feb-22	Karen Melissa	Need to create some labels that we can stick onto the handouts with additional information on dates and the website.	3-Mar-22
3-Feb-22	Rebecca	Investigate Save That Stuff to determine if that could be a market for residents Styrofoam.  <a href="https://www.savethatstuff.com/">https://www.savethatstuff.com/</a>	3-Mar-22

Visit the Waste Management MRF in Billerica.

Can pick two Thursdays in the Spring for the tour. The tours start at 10:00. One possible date is 21-April as school vacation week.

Review of 2021-2022 Goals and Long-Term Goals

See Attachment 1 for updated goals.

**New Business**

Bags to Benches

Kristin briefed the Committee on the Bags to Benches Program.

There are community programs and there are school programs. Two separate possible programs. Kristin has registered for the program. Trex provides a long list of items that are acceptable. We need to collect 500 pounds in 6 months to get a bench.

May not be the best time for the school to assist.

Consider starting on Earth Day. Need to consider flyers to hand out at drop-offs.

See additional information in Attachment 4.

**Open Discussion**

Lee is working to get another date in February at the Farmer's Market.

Littleton is looking to work with other towns on a Zero Waste Day.

Wellesley is doing a food waste drop-off challenge.

The Wish Project is accepting textiles in bags that are labeled RECYCLING. The Bedford campus of Middlesex Community College (near the VA center) has a bin for textiles.

**Next Scheduled Meeting**

3-March-2022 at 6:00 p.m. is the next meeting. It will be held at the Town Hall at 50 Billerica Rd. Room 200 with the option of remote attendance.

**Motion to Adjourn.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**Attachments**

1. 2021-2022 Long-Term Goals
2. 2021 and 2022 Trash and Recycling Tonnages
3. Weights of Mattresses and Box Springs
4. Trex Bags to Benches Program Information

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Review of 2021-2022 Goals and Long-Term Goals

**Mission Statement:**

The Chelmsford Recycling Committee is dedicated to reducing the volume of solid waste generated in the town of Chelmsford. The committee strives to promote waste reduction, reuse, recycling, repairing, and composting among the residents, businesses, and institutions in the town of Chelmsford.

Prior to June 2022	Beyond June 2022	Recycling Committee Goals	Committee Member Taking Lead
		<b>EDUCATION/AWARENESS</b>	
X		Town-wide Clean-up re-imagined <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have the cleanup for a week again, vs just one day.</li> <li>• Need to be able to thank persons and groups via Facebook, local papers, etc.</li> <li>• Need to post photos</li> <li>• Week of April 21 Earth Day</li> </ul>	Karen Melissa
		<b>REDUCE WASTE</b>	
	X	Investigate one or more water bottle filling stations for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost per unit (not installed) is between \$2000 and \$8000.</li> <li>• Need location with access to water main.</li> <li>• Need to consider winter weather.</li> </ul> UPDATE: The Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is interested in working with the Committee installing a water station at Cushing Place. There is a water source, but not sure if the water is potable water. A MassTrails grant may be more appropriate source of funds than RDP.	Lee
X		Investigate and setup a program with Trex to collect plastic bags, etc.  <a href="https://recycle.trex.com/view/programs">https://recycle.trex.com/view/programs</a>	Kristin
		<b>RE-USE/REPAIR</b>	
	X	Repair Cafés Three events/year, post-pandemic (Eco Club participation?)	Lee
		<b>RECYCLE-RESIDENTIAL/TOWN RECYCLING</b>	
	X	Multi-vendor recycling event (shredding, electronics, tires, etc.) The Zero Waste Day.	Karen
		<b>RECYCLE-BUSINESS RECYCLING</b>	
	X	Advocate for Board of Health mandate for hauler permits	Rebecca
	X	Plan the Implementation of hauler permits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research how other MA municipalities have implemented business recycling programs and</li> <li>• Conduct a survey of Chelmsford businesses to find out what level of business recycling is going on now.</li> </ul>	Rebecca
		<b>COMPOST</b>	

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Prior to June 2022	Beyond June 2022	Recycling Committee Goals	Committee Member Taking Lead
X		Organics curbside pickup: Town request for bids; residents sign up and pay individually. Offbeet is one possibility. Karen has information from previous years.	Lee
X		Organics drop-off: Promote with sale of compost bins in the spring, free compost pails?	Lee
X		Setup survey of how many interested in composting.	<b>COMPLETE</b>
	X	Setup program for indoor composting. Have a July 4th booth and raffle off some worm composting kits. UPDATE: Ray is going to offer a class through Community Ed this spring.	Lee
	X	Consider changing to recycling toters with new contract in 2023.	





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Attachment 3: Weights of Mattresses and Box Springs  
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The Town will now be getting the number of mattresses and box springs collected by UTEC. In an effort to be able to include the weight of the mattresses and box springs in the Town's recycle numbers I have done a little research on the weight of mattresses and box springs.

According to Mattress Nerd (yes, there is such a site) <https://www.mattressnerd.com/mattress-weight/>

- A twin sized mattress can weigh approximately 45 to 50 pounds
- A full-sized mattress can weigh approximately 55 to 60 pounds
- A queen-sized mattress can weigh roughly 70 to 75 pounds.
- A king-sized mattress can weigh between 90 to 95 pounds

According to eachnight.com <https://eachnight.com/mattress-resources/how-much-does-a-mattress-weigh/>

- A twin sized mattress can weigh approximately 40 to 45 pounds
- A full-sized mattress can weigh approximately 50 to 60 pounds
- A queen-sized mattress can weigh roughly 120 to 160 pounds.
- A king-sized mattress can weigh between 130 to 180 pounds

According to asizebeds.com <https://www.asizebeds.com/best-low-profile-box-spring/>

- A low-profile full-sized box spring can weigh approximately 37 to 38 pounds
- A low-profile queen-sized mattress can weigh roughly 50 to 60 pounds.

According to Walmart.com

- A twin sized box spring can weigh 26 pounds
- A full-sized box spring can weigh 37 pounds
- A queen-sized box spring can weigh 40 pounds.
- A king-sized box spring can weigh 48 pounds

Assuming that the information we get from UTEC is that they collected X mattresses and box springs we will use a weight of 60 pounds for each item in our recycling percentage calculations.

## More than just plastic bags are recyclable.

APPROVED ITEMS FOR NEXTREX® PROGRAMS

**All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.**



PALLET WRAP AND  
STRETCH FILM



GROCERY BAGS



BREAD BAGS



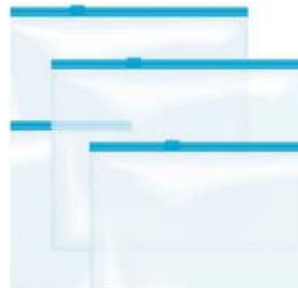
CASE OVERWRAP



DRY CLEANING BAGS



NEWSPAPER SLEEVES



ZIPLOC® AND OTHER  
RESEALABLE FOOD  
STORAGE BAGS



PRODUCE BAGS



PRODUCT WRAP



RETAIL BAGS



AIR PILLOWS



BUBBLE WRAP



PLASTIC SHIPPING  
ENVELOPES



ELECTRONIC WRAP

**PLUS**

**All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.**

- Plastic films labeled with #2 or #4 recycling symbol (polyethylene films)
- Ice bags
- Wood pellet bags
- Salt bags
- Cereal box liners



**DO NOT INCLUDE THESE ITEMS IN NEXTREX® PROGRAMS**



FROZEN FOOD BAGS



CANDY BAR WRAPPERS



CHIP BAGS



NET OR MESH PRODUCE BAGS



MULCH OR SOIL BAGS

**OR THESE**

- Degradable/compostable bags or film packaging
- Pre-washed salad mix bags
- Pet food bags
- Hot dog or meat wrap packaging
- Six-pack rings
- PPE- Gloves, masks, or protective wear
- Pool covers
- Lamination film
- Silage and hay bags
- Backyard ice rinks
- Vinyl shower curtains or tablecloths
- Bedding or linen packaging
- Shiny, crinkly films like floral wrap

## Don't see your item on the list?

Try these tests to see if your plastic is recyclable polyethylene or not or review the list of frequently asked questions below.

- See if the package will stretch when you pull it. If yes, it can be included. **If it tears like paper, then please don't put in the bin.**

- Is the package shiny or does it make a crinkly/crunchy sound in your hand? **If yes, do NOT recycle in the NexTrex® bin.**