

# Recycling Meeting Minutes 4-February-2021 @ 7:00 P.M.

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<b>Members Present (remotely)</b> Lee Williams Rebecca Gore Karen Willis Betty Mattson Jocelyn Demuth Mary Beth Hayes Norm Eisenmann	<b>Members Absent</b> Ivy Igbe	<b>Guests Present (remotely)</b> Bern Kosicki (CCAT) Tom Amiro (CCAT) Michelle Ly (Eco Club)
<b>Sustainability Manager Present (remotely)</b>	<b>Sustainability Manager Absent</b> Melissa Joyce	RECEIVED 2021-03-08 9:08 AM

## Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

TOWN OF CHELMSFORD  
PATRICIA E. DZURIS  
TOWN CLERK

## Review and Approve Meeting Minutes – January 2021

The January meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

## Eco Club Input

The Chelmsford High School Eco Club is still having to meet remotely. They are revamping their graphics on social media sites maintained by the Eco Club.

The Eco Club is planning on coordinating with the National Honor Society and the Science National Honor Society to have periodic cleanups around town in the spring. The work will keep Chelmsford cleaner and will be an opportunity for volunteer hours.

The Eco Club could support the CCAT presentation.

## Chelmsford Climate Action Team Presentation on citizen's petition

Bern Kosicki provided background on the CCAT and the resolution.

### **Resolution to Address Climate Change**

Science overwhelmingly reports that climate change is happening, and that human-produced greenhouse gas emissions are by far the biggest cause. Furthermore, recent studies have shown that global warming is occurring faster and the negative effects on society everywhere are likely to be greater than predicted only a half-decade ago. Consequently, in April of 2020, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts established a 2050 statewide emissions limit of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.

In recognition of the need to address global warming and in accordance with the Commonwealth's net-zero emissions goal, Chelmsford hereby resolves to reduce fossil-fuel-based energy use in town facilities, vehicles and operations, and to promote actions that residents and businesses may take to reduce their carbon emissions.

Be it resolved that the Select Board will charge a Committee with studying and making recommendations for specific strategies and actions for Chelmsford to achieve a goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and also to recommend intermediate targets that are consistent with the overall final objective. The Committee will

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provide a report of findings and recommendations to the Select Board annually and will also provide an overall assessment of Chelmsford's progress toward net-zero emissions to the Select Board every five years.

Bern and Tom Amiro answered questions from the committee members.

- The Chelmsford Climate Action Team is not a Town sponsored group.
- The resolution will be Warrant Article #27 on the Spring Town Meeting Agenda.
- No funds necessary initially. May need to hire an expert further down the line.

The Committee voted to support the resolution and made some recommendations on how to present the article to Town Meeting.

### **Sustainability Manager Update – Melissa Joyce**

Melissa Joyce, the Sustainability Manager, was unable to attend the meeting. However, she spoke with Lee Williams prior to the meeting and provided the following information:

#### **TONNAGE TOTALS for December 2020**

Pink bags 9,017 pounds

Recycling: 329.44 tons

Trash: 992.68 tons

~24.92% recycled.

~25.17% diverted (includes pink bags)

There is money in the RDP Grant that the state is encouraging towns to spend. Some ideas include:

- Household Hazardous Waste Day (already budgeted by the Town)
- Reusable bags
- Printing Flyers encouraging recycling.
- Earth Day cleanup materials

The rain barrel and compost bin sale has been posted. Additional advertising will be done.

Talking Trash and Recycling Presentation needs to be publicized. The presentation will be on March 2 at 7 p.m. It is sponsored by Keep Mass Beautiful (<https://keepmassbeautiful.org/>). We need at least 20 registered attendees. Karen sent out the link for registration.

To attend, pre-registration is required. Please visit <https://keepmassbeautiful.org/news-events/events-calendar.html/event/2021/03/02/talking-trash-recycling-with-the-chelmsford-recycling-committee/324085> to register and get your Zoom link.

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## Old Business

### Recent and Upcoming Events

EVENT	DATE(S)	TIME	LOCATION
Rain Barrel and Compost Bin pickup	27-March	To Be Determined	DPW garage at 9 Alpha Road
First Bulb Shed Day of 2021	7-April	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Behind Town Hall
Household Hazardous Waste	24-April	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	DPW yard at 9 Alpha Road
Town wide Cleanup	20-April to 27-April	Not applicable	Not applicable
Shredding Event	8-May	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	DPW yard at 9 Alpha Road
Leaf drop-off	15-May	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	DPW yard at 9 Alpha Road
Brush drop-off (may not be able to be held if wood chips cannot be sent to energy plants)	15-May	To Be Determined	Community Tree

### Publicity/website Update

Norm gave a brief update on website progress. Could set up a shared screen for next meeting. It was suggested to have a page about the clothing industries.

Have reserved FY22 Q2 (September) tax bill for a flyer on recycling. The state website has lots of graphics that we can use.

### Plastic Bag Ban Status/Update

Large chains received a letter from the Recycling Committee and Melissa Joyce reminding them about the bag ban. It also was sent via email to small businesses. The ban has been in effect since July 10, 2020, but it has not been enforced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The letter states that the ban will be subject to enforcement beginning March 1, 2021. Some businesses commented that it was a bad time to be doing this. Investigations will be done based on complaints by residents. Town employees will not be going around auditing the businesses unless a resident files a complaint. See Attachment 2 for a copy of the letter.

### Review of 2020-2021 Goals and Long-Term Goals

See Attachment 1 for updated goals.

Lee attended a webinar, Strategies for Collecting Residential Food Waste, about municipal compost drop-off programs in MA. She recommended it to the other members. The webinar recording is at <https://nerc.org/>

### Review of Open Action Items

Date	Owner	Action	Due Date
5-Nov-2020	Melissa Lee	Work with the Building Commissioner to finalize and send the letter regarding the plastic bag ban.	COMPLETE
5-Nov-2020	Mary Beth	Need to order bags to hand out at the Farmers Market.	4-Mar-2021

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Date	Owner	Action	Due Date
		(The last order was from Bullet Brands and cost \$2.60/bag for 500 bags, made from recycled materials.) Mary Beth will investigate. Can also purchase virgin cotton bags or recycled plastic bags. Will ask for samples to review the quality.	
5-Nov-2020	Norm	Work on new website	4-Mar-2021
7-Jan-2021	Norm	Submit December meeting minutes to the Town Clerk	Complete
7-Jan-2021	Norm	Submit January draft minutes to the Committee	Complete
7-Jan-2021	ALL	Provide Norm with which of the Recycling Committee Goals each member wants to lead	Complete
7-Jan-2021	Karen	Contact Neil Rhein to schedule a presentation on 'Talking Trash & Recycling'	Complete
7-Jan-2021	Karen or Melissa	Contact the Town Clerk to determine if a flyer can be added to the July tax bill or the September tax bill.	Complete
7-Jan-2021	Melissa	Publicize Rain Barrel and Compost Bin	Complete
4-Feb-2021		Create flyer for the tax bill	July
4-Feb-2021	Norm	Submit January meeting minutes to the Town Clerk	Complete
4-Feb-2021	Norm	Submit February draft minutes to the Committee	12-Feb-2021

### **New Business**

#### Textiles Recycling:

- The pink bags are provided by Simple Recycling in Ohio
- Textiles, shoes, household goods, etc. can go into the bags.
- WasteZero Inc in Andover handles the material.
  - Less than 15% is good enough to go to Goodwill, Savers, etc. for reuse.
  - Most is consolidated in Billerica and sent to Ohio.
  - Wool garments do get pulled out.
- There is a glut of textiles around the globe and some countries such as the Philippines and India have banned the import of used material. The bans are to protect the country's own industries and to prevent them from becoming a dumping ground for other countries.
- The average piece of clothing is only worn four or five times.
- Some material goes into mattress and car cushions.

### **Open Discussion**

4-Mar-2021 is the next meeting at 6:00 p.m.

### **Motion to Adjourn.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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Review of 2020-2021 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 2021	Beyond June 2021	Recycling Committee Goals	Committee Member Taking Lead
		<b>EDUCATION/AWARENESS</b>	
X		Website overhaul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New website under construction.</li> <li>• Using Squarespace as the 'one stop shop'.</li> <li>• Initially will set up under chelmsfordrecycles.com.</li> <li>• Once functional then transfer back to .org.</li> </ul>	Norm
	X	Library presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wait until after the Trash/Recycling Presentation.</li> <li>• Consider discussing not using plastics in laundry products and other products.</li> </ul>	Betty
X		Town-wide Clean-up re-imagined	Ivy
X		Talking Trash & Recycling Presentation	Karen
		<b>REDUCE WASTE</b>	
	X	Charge fee for bulk items	
	X	Promote reduction of waste (prevention), awareness of the impact. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does waste disposal and recycling actually cost Chelmsford's households?</li> </ul>	Mary Beth
		<b>RE-USE/REPAIR</b>	
	X	Transfer station/swap shop	
	X	Promote local swap resources (Buy Nothing Chelmsford, etc.)	Betty Mary Beth
X		Repair Cafés Research/Prep	Lee
	X	Repair Cafés Three events/year, post-pandemic (Eco Club participation?)	
		<b>RECYCLE-RESIDENTIAL/TOWN RECYCLING</b>	
	X	Multi-vendor recycling event (shredding, electronics, tires, etc.)	Karen
	X	Trash/recycling bins at parks, athletic fields	
		<b>RECYCLE-BUSINESS RECYCLING</b>	
	X	Advocate for Board of Health mandate for hauler permits	Jocelyn
	X	Plan the Implementation: <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> Eco Club could help with either or both of the items.	Jocelyn Mary Beth

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Prior to June 2021	Beyond June 2021	Recycling Committee Goals	Committee Member Taking Lead
	X	Promote awareness	Jocelyn
		<b>COMPOST</b>	
X		Organics curbside pickup: Town request for bids; residents sign up and pay individually	Lee Karen
X		Organics drop-off: Promote with sale of compost bins in the spring, free compost pails?	Lee Karen
	X	Curbside organics	
	X	Promote overwintering of leaves	Jocelyn

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**TOWN OF CHELMSFORD**  
**50 Billerica Road**  
**Chelmsford, MA 01824-2777**  
(978) 250-5200  
[www.chelmsfordma.gov](http://www.chelmsfordma.gov)

NOTICE

To: Retail Businesses in the Town of Chelmsford, MA  
Date: January 27, 2021  
Subject: Town of Chelmsford Restriction on Single-Use Plastic Checkout Bags

This notice is a reminder to retail businesses that the Town of Chelmsford's restriction on single-use plastic checkout bags is currently in effect. The restriction passed at the Fall 2019 Town Meeting was scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2020. However, the March 25, 2020 order from the Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health placed a moratorium on regulations banning single-use plastic bags. On July 10, 2020, this order was rescinded. So, while delayed, the Chelmsford restriction is now in effect and enforceable.

We understand that retail businesses may have been unaware of the latest status. In addition, other demands on businesses and town government during the COVID-19 pandemic have taken priority. However, all retailers should now be informed and make plans to comply. The Town of Chelmsford will begin enforcing the restriction on single-use plastic checkout bags on **March 1, 2021**. We recommend that you use up your supply of single-use plastic checkout bags as soon as possible and encourage customers to shop with reusable bags.

Enforcement of this ban is performed by the Building Commissioner, so please direct specific enforcement related questions to the Building Department at 978-250-5225 and all other questions to Melissa Joyce, Sustainability Manager at 978-250-5203. Please see the attached additional resources for more information.

Thank you for your cooperation as we hope to make this transition as smooth as possible for you and our community.

Thank you,

Chelmsford Recycling Committee  
Melissa Joyce, Sustainability Manager

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Additional Resources

On October 24, 2019, Chelmsford Town Meeting Reps voted 96-41 to restrict the retail use of single-use plastic checkout bags in Chelmsford, effective July 1, 2020. This new bylaw, Chelmsford Town Bylaws, Chapter 144, Article 1, bans business establishments such as supermarkets and stores from distributing, selling or providing thin-filmed, single-use plastic checkout bags.

<https://www.ecode360.com/34050416>

On March 25, 2020, the Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health issued a set of orders to reduce exposure of shoppers and employees to COVID-19 at grocery stores and pharmacies.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/grocery-and-pharmacy-store-order>

On July 10, 2020, the Commissioner of Public Health rescinded the March 25, 2020 public health orders.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/recission-of-grocery-store-order-and-guidance>

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/07/11/metro/mass-department-public-health-lifts-ban-reusable-bags>

Additional information regarding reusable shopping bags:

The current CDC guidance states that "COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person to person" and "touching surfaces is not thought to be a common way that COVID-19 spreads."

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>

The World Health Organization states that "there is currently no confirmed case of COVID-19 transmitted through food or food packaging."

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

Based on the best available science and guidance from public health experts, reusable bags can be used safely by using basic hygiene such as washing bags on a regular basis.