

**Chelmsford Recycling Committee Minutes**  
**March 5, 2020**  
**9 Alpha Rd, Conference Room, 7:00pm**

**Members Attending:** Rebecca Gore, Aaron Cunningham, Melissa Joyce, Lee Williams, Karen Willis, Mark Gallagher

TOWN CLERK

**Members Absent:** Jocelyn Demuth, Cynthia Fiekers

**Visitor:** Dave Dutton

### **Business**

### **Meeting Minutes**

The February meeting minutes were approved with revisions.

### **Schools**

Eco Club representatives were unable to attend the meeting. However, they provided a letter to the committee for review. The letter asks the overseers of various sites around town to participate in the Town-wide Clean-up. The club would like to establish several sites where participants may receive bags, gloves, and information regarding the event. The sites include the Town Common, the Shack by Roberts Field, and Hart Pond.

In addition, participants will be able to pick up gloves and bags at these sites, as well as at the DPW building on Alpha Rd.

### **Sustainability Manager's Update**

Melissa has been in contact with Black Earth regarding composting at the high school. She also discussed with the firm an organics drop off site, which would be free for residents. Black Earth would provide the toters at a site subject to approval by the Board of Health.

The Town is sponsoring a compost bin and rain barrel sale to residents. The compost bins, which costs \$25, and the rain barrels, which cost \$60, will be distributed to residents on April 25<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with Household Hazardous Waste Day.

Additional items for the "Library of Things" have been purchased, allowing the town to become eligible for an additional Recycling Dividend point from the state.

Melissa has scheduled two speaking events on composting and recycling issues. At the first event, she will speak to the Elders Climate Action committee on composting, and to promote the discounted bin purchase program. There is also a library event scheduled for April 8th at 7:00 PM to will discuss the role of composting and water collection on conservation efforts.

Melissa reported that Town recovered 100,800 pounds of textiles through the Simple Recycling program in 2019. This diverted approximately 54 tons from incineration at a cost of \$74 per ton. The town also received back approximately \$5,000 as a dividend for the textile collection. Committee members discussed how it was important to promote this program especially since the Town's tipping fee will rise to \$93 per ton at the end of June.

The Town has received a Green Communities Act grant for weatherization at the McCarthy school.

### **Plastic Bag Reduction Warrant**

Sean Shanahan, the Town's Building Inspector, is responsible for enforcing the Town's new plastic bag reduction warrant. Melissa will draft a letter that will be distributed by email list and the Chelmsford Business Association detailing the provisions of the article. There will also be information sent in the March tax bills.

### **Recycling Center Update**

Karen visited the Carlisle transfer station and discussed the items that were collected for recycling. The town also has a swap shop building where residents can donate the wide variety of items. She plans to visit the Acton center as well.

Rebecca mentioned that the Tyngsborough Sustainability Committee is interested in teaming up with neighboring towns to establish a municipal composting site. Their committee has land that is designated and approved at the Innovation Academy for a center. Rebecca will forward the Tyngsborough contact information for Melissa for further discussion.

### **Repair cafe**

Lee visited the repair cafe in Framingham in February. The event is sponsored by the town Rotary Club which provides insurance to its participants. The event was well organized in consisted of 15 repair volunteers as well as three coordinators that oversaw processing of participants and liability waiver signing. The goal of the event is to instruct people in ways to repair various electronic, appliance, and textile items.

Lee ordered a copy of a repair cafe startup kit, which provides guidance and information on how to set up repair cafe.

### **Upcoming Events**

April 25th is the Household Hazardous Waste event, along with the compost bin and rain barrel pick up at the DPW site on Alpha Road. Resident's identification will need to be checked. Melissa may need to enlist committee volunteers for these events. There has been some discussion of creating a reciprocal event, whereby residents of other towns could participate for a fee, and Chelmsford residents could participate at other local hazardous waste events.

Residency checking could also provide an opportunity to connect with residents to discuss various recycling and composting issues.

The chelmsfordrecycles.org website update is underway, in Marion will be invited to discuss at the May 7th meeting.

Aaron has decided to not seek any changes to the committee charter and mission statement at this time.

**Next meeting** is scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm. *Please note that the meeting was scheduled prior to restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 emergency.*