

## Meeting Minutes – Recycling and Solid Waste Committee (RSWC) –

12/6/2022

**Attendees (Zoom meeting)** – Meryl Mandell (Chair), Gary Bernhard (Recycling Coordinator), Gail Fleishhaker, Steve Rice, Tim Logan, Peg Ross. **Potential applicant for membership:** Barbara Bigelow

1 - The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

2 – For the benefit of Barbara Bigelow, Meryl reviewed general charge and operation of the committee.

3 - Minutes from the 8/30/2022 RSWC meeting were approved.

4 – Meryl stated that the Select Board approved Andrea Rogers and Mary Glavin as new members.

### 5 – Status of Prior Action items:

**A** - Mattress recycle options: We can now drop mattresses at the Wendell Transfer Station for \$30 per mattress. Mattresses can no longer be put in landfills. **DONE**

**B** – Gary will contact Triple T (a composting company), possibly others, re. setting up a school recycling program. Gary will get the specifics and send out an email with his findings and will arrange a meeting with the school principal. Gary did contact Amy Donovan but has not heard back yet. Amy is with the Franklin County Waste Management District and focuses on school programs. The primary question at this point is cost. **ON GOING**

**D**– Gail will make a laminated sign to put on the bin as a reminder that items are to be clean and bagged. **DONE**

**E** –Meryl will check bag inventory in January to verify we still have a sufficient supply. **DONE**

**F** - Gary will email us about upcoming, informative Zoom programs by Susan Waite, DEP Regional Coordinator. **DONE**

### 6 – New Business:

**A - NPR article:** NPR recently published an article about plastic recycling. The article erringly said that plastic recycling isn't working. A question was raised regarding posting the article plus a rebuttal to the website. There is a concern that residents might read the NPR article and quit recycling – although there is no indication that this has happened. Meryl believes that posting both articles will do nothing but cause confusion. Steve agreed with Meryl and mentioned a third article from Green Peace.

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He thinks we should focus on materials that CAN be recycled for sure. Gail urges a focus on basic recyclable plastics but does not like the idea of posting both articles. Meryl suggested that Gary prepare a short article, reinforcing best recycle practices, for the town newsletter. Members agreed not to post the articles and Gary will write an article for the town newsletter.

**B – Tera-Cycle recycle boxes:** This is a service that a resident mentioned to Gary for consideration. This company provides a box for items that are not normally recyclable and recycles them for the householder. The boxes are VERY expensive and not very large. Gail suggested such a service is a household choice and not a town choice. All members agreed with Gail.

**C – Location of textile recycle box:** An email was received by Gary suggesting that the current location of the textile recycle box on lot O-32 was contaminated. Meryl stated that this suggestion was based on misinformation. The only detectable chemicals are at the base of the old Air Force radio tower – and it was only 1 point over the acceptable range. The Town has and continues to perform due diligence regarding such issues. Gary, Becky, and Mary Anne thoroughly reviewed potential locations for the box and agreed that lot O-32 was the most satisfactory location. A motion to keep the box on lot O-32 was unanimously passed.

**D – MRF advisory board grant:** the members agreed that recycle container labels and some large posters of recyclable items should be ordered.

**E – Other business:** Gary asked Gail to post on the website that Home Depot no longer accepts large fluorescent bulbs – only the compact ones. Gary also mentioned an excess of failed internet batteries.

### 7 - Future action items:

**A** – Gary will contact Triple T (a composting company), possibly others, re. setting up a school recycling program. Gary will get the specifics and send out an email with his findings and will arrange a meeting with the school principle. Gary did contact Amy Donovan but has not heard back yet. Amy is with the Franklin County Waste Management District and focuses on school programs. The primary question at this point is cost. **ON GOING**

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**B** –There is concern about the lag time from RSWC purchase requests to actual purchase. Right now we need more blue bins in particular. Gary and Meryl will ask Becky for a meeting to discuss expediting the town purchasing process.

**C** - Gary will write an article on recyclable items for the town newsletter.

**D** – Gary will order recycle container labels and some large posters of recyclable items should be ordered under the MRF advisory board grant.

**E** - Gail will post on the website that Home Depot no longer accepts large fluorescent bulbs – only the compact ones

**F** - Gary will call NLR (hazardous waste company) to come get batteries.

**8** - Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.