

Brookline Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes for February 9th, 2016.

Submitted by Amie Lindenboim

The meeting took place in the Public Health Building Library at 6:30 P.M.

Committee Members Present: Ed Gilbert, John Dempsey, Cynthia Snow, Susan Rittling, Clint Richmond, Amie Lindenboim

Committee Members Absent: Barbara Field

Guests: John Elcock, BHS student; George Zhaka, Teen Center; Elon Fischer, BHS Teacher

Minutes: The minutes from Jan. 5th, 2016, were approved.

BHS Food Waste Drop-Off Project Presentation

- Social Entrepreneurship Students want to establish a community drop-off site at Teen Center, Save-that- Stuff will pick up
- Bins on order from Italy—totally sealed and rodent-proof
 - Just need help and money to fund pick-ups (\$23/week for up to 400lbs)
- 400 BHS Students were surveyed about their home composting efforts, wants, and needs. Many of those who said they didn't compost at home, hoped to do so at school
- Despite new Waste Ban regulations, Brookline High School has not implemented a plan to divert their food waste.
- Other Supporters: Teen Center, Bountiful Brookline, Lawrence School parents, teacher at Lincoln School

Cf: Boston's Project Oscar

Goal: Popularity/success will lead other neighborhoods to create composting hubs

DPW Update—Ed Gilbert

- Tonnes
 - Solid waste tonnage down slightly (~1%) YTD over last year
 - Recycling is down 5.9% over same period
 - For January 2016 we paid Casella \$15,431 to process our recycling (above what is paid for pick-up)
 - Basically only cardboard is earning money on the commodities market
- PAYT Committee Update

Town Administrator Mel Kleckner, 2 Members of Public, Advisory

Committee Member, Town Meeting Member, DPW Commissioner

Andrew

Pappastergion, SWAC chair. Tasked with looking at

- (1) automatic collection (Mr. Pappastergion wants to go with 2 side loaders for trash collection) Expected to be approved by BOS, trucks should be in town in Fall 2016; and

- (2) Carts—what default size for 13,200 households?

John's subcommittee is looking at what other communities do, another subcommittee is looking at finances.

Amie and John discussed difficulties in defaulting to larger cart:

- People may have less need of larger size once curbside organic pick-ups instituted (and carts stick around for a long time—10 year warranty)
- Current trash fees only cover 75% of costs and super-recycling senior living alone pays as much as huge non-recycling household
- John is trying to explain benefits of 35 gal. as default size—fairness, discouraging unnecessary waste, encouraging recycling
- 48 gallon size is out there but not made commonly (risk that not as sturdy)
- Hope decision on size will be made before the end of May 2016; SWAC will need to help explain any changes to public
- Amie suggested live debate between the 2 different sized containers

•Business recycling—sent out letters to around 70 businesses that have not submitted plans—some may be home businesses on town service, just need to let them know

2016 Annual Plan

- Spring and summer: Cart/PAYT presentations once a plan is chosen
- John suggested Senior Center/League of Women Voters trip to MRF in Charlestown
- Ed is working on food waste grant!!!**

Climate Week

- Styrofoam Drop-off help wanted 4/2, 10AM to 2 PM

Other Business:

- Field trips
- Container audit
- “Racing to Zero” movie showing, maybe during Climate Week—maybe next year

Adjournment: 8:17 p.m.

Next meeting: Changed to 3/8/16 to avoid conflict with election