

Brookline Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2020

Submitted by Clint Richmond

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

Committee Members Present: John Dempsey (Chair), Deane Coady, Marga Dieter, Mary Litterst, Kathleen O'Connell, Clint Richmond, Susan Rittling, John Shreffler

Staff: Ed Gilbert, Tom Segear

Guests/Members of the public:

Handouts: Agenda 1/7/20; Minutes of the 12/3/19 meeting; Solid Waste/Recycling Monthly Summary

The Minutes from 12/3/19 were reviewed and approved.

DPW Report

• Tonnages for December

For Fiscal Year 2020 to date: -58 ton MSW, -99 tons for Recycling.

December was the highest ACR on record -\$94.62/ton. Brookline paid \$41,000 for recycling in December.

Current tipping fee is \$78/ton for trash but when our contract is renewed this figure is expected to rise above \$100/ton.

MassDEP is exploring shipping trash by rail out of state.

Looking into in-house glass solution to reduce the cost of recycling.

Update on current school composting

DPW will cover the cost of picking up composting for all schools next fiscal year.

There is an issue at the Lincoln School with the new compostable trays not being certified compostable, which means it does not contain added PFAS. Black Earth will only accept certified trays so these were trashed. Previous trays were certified. Conversation with the Food Director and expectation that certified trays will return soon.

Pierce pilot with the 6th graders is working well.

Heath 6th graders are conducting a composting trial.

The Food Services Director is looking for condiment pumps to replace the plastic packets which are trash that can contaminate composting.

Looking for adult compost volunteers for the High School.

Discussion on warrant article to ban the sale of single-use plastic beverage containers

Mr. Richmond reported that there was some hesitancy to further regulate food establishments given the new packaging law and the loss of the sustainability coordinator in the Planning

Department. Mr. Richmond presented two additional ideas for warrant articles that affect fewer businesses:

- Single-use Plastics warrant article - this extensible article would start with items banned by the European Union (most notably plastic ear swabs) and add dental floss picks and microbeads. Other items could be added in the future.
- PFAS in retail personal care products and possibly other items such as food service ware in bulk.

Mr. Richmond will bring this to the Feb. meeting and SWAC will hold a hearing to consider sponsoring a warrant article.

Other business

The next SWAC meeting will be held on January 7, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.