Recycling and Sustainability Minutes, June 12, 2018

Christine Zadykowich, Chair
Orlando Corona, Vice Chair
Linda Corona, Member
Mary Mc Donald, Member
Joyce Kutzer, Member
Deanna Savage, Alternate
Brian Plasko, Alternate
David Tapscott, Liaison to Board of Health
Recording Secretary



Town of Uxbridge Recycling and SustainabilityCommittee

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Email: RSC@uxbridge-ma.gov

Meeting of June 12, 2018 in Lower Town Hall

In attendance:

Christine Zadykovich, Chair Orlando Corona, Vice-Chair Mary McDonald, Memer Linda Corona, Member Joyce Kutzer, Member Brian Plasko, Alternate David Tapscott, Board of Health Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 6:30

Guests:

Lee Lindsey from Uxbridge. She is interested in zero waste efforts and talked about how difficult it is to communicate with citizens about Town programs and activities.

Jackie Caffarelli from Uxbridge. She is Interested RSC in general and suggested that high school students might use RSC activities for volunteer hours. She works at Hannaford and is willing to coordinate with Mary to talk to them about green practices.

Diane Cresey from Douglas. She is interested in forming a similar committee for Douglas and all the RSC's work.

Report from the Board of Health was limited to items on the agenda.

#### Clean up Day April 28th

A debriefing with Bonnie Combs, Kristin Black and David Tapscott was reviewed. Issues of advertising to increase turnout were discussed. They included a banner across Main Street, having more space available by using McCloskey, using all available media, etc.

Discussed tonight were other ideas for next year. We might add:

Paper shredding

Hazardous waste day.

Group involvement and team competition, farmer's market

Plogging (Norwegian) run/jog and trash pickup

Things to keep bags open

Meet the Town Leaders Day

Find the sweet spot based on visibility of trash

Reuse yard sale, town wide

Library book sale

#### **Green Communities**

Town Meeting in May involved a successful presentation by Deanna and David and the Planning Board. The articles needed for becoming a Green Community all passed. BOH is working with energy auditors for all Town buildings

## **Sports fields**

UBA contracts with hauler (Pratt). DPW does Hecla field. Ideally there would be a different bin for trash and bottles/cans. Education of public is key issue as well as monitoring behavior of bottle and can consumers. This would be coordinated with the LAUNCH (see below).

Action: Deanna will discuss in the future.

### Launch

A "LAUNCH" of recycling information/education could occur this fall in coordination with special Town Meeting to vote on municipal curbside hauler contract. It could involve creation of a website with infographics, distribution of brochures, school flyers, a slide show at the meeting, and signs. Taking a positive approach and using plenty of facts would be desirable. The RSC will continue to discuss things such as a plastic bag ban and plastic straw issues, both of which involve cultural and economic changes.

Action: David will create a list of ideas and items discussed tonight to be included in a fall Launch.

#### **Terracycle**

Terracycle and Trex for plastic bag recycling were discussed. Having a station at Hannaford and/or the schools was discussed. The issue of a Terracylce campaign's length of time (toothbrushes for 2 years, nothing shorter than 6 months). There is no notification before a campaign ends, but having a yearly campaign would probably work.

Action: Christine will continue to integrate this program with all RSC activity.

#### **Local Business**

Hannaford has some recycling processes: Reusable bags, plastic bags, deposit bottles. Per Jackie, this month this many people used reusable bags, so many pounds of plastic bags were repurposed.

Action: Jackie and Mary and possibly Deanna will be meeting with them soon to discuss recycling and other green practices.

Action: Brian will work on obtaining a list of all businesses in the Town.

#### **Schools**

Mary worked with teachers at Taft and taught 5 second grade classes about trash. They made model landfills. The students there are too young for Green Team. Lots of parents, staff and kids talked about recycling. Next year Mary may go to staff meeting. Big blue boxes are being provided for staff to use for recycling, but it is not clear if janitorial staff are really separating it from trash.

At Whitin this year, Linda worked with two other teachers on staff there to lead the Green Team. Project was composting at home and they made composting mixture of kitchen scraps and egg cartons. The final mixture was used to grow chia pets. They emailed parents about linking green practices to STEM curriculum. They distributed books about how to reuse. Green Team kids got environmental Eagles certificate from DEP and money to buy

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containers for Make Your Space program. They picked up trash around school, created a food sharing table. Mary wondered about Issuing certificates of recognition from RSC for recognition of this year's team. Different team next year will be formed.

Water filling stations are not present yet.

Action: Linda and Orlando will create certificates

Action: Linda and Mary will continue their work with the schools

# Endorsements and other miscellaneous items

The RSC should discuss any endorsement at a meeting. If there is an urgent request, Chair can decide. "Reply all" is not to be used unless purely informational. David can use this since he is not a voting member.

Action: Brian will explore best practices via the MMA

## Outreach

FB page can be expanded to Twitter and/or Instagram. Updates of RSC activity, pictures of things such as Terracycle items, paper bags, etc. Mary and Christine are admins for FB and wil continue in that role. A "Friends of RSC" will be created. There was discussion about the creation of a quarterly newsletter. Presentation at UPL will be explored to promote the RSC and recruit "Friends of RSC". Having a presence at upcoming Town events was discussed.

Action: Orlando will create and work with UPL on RSC night in August

Action: Christine and Mary will explore options to use Instagram and Twitter accounts.

Action: Christine will make contact with First Night to have presence at their December event.

A motion was made by Brian and seconded by Christine to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor to adjourn.

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