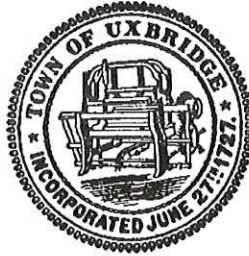


Recycling and Sustainability Committee Meeting November 12, 2019

*Christine Zadykovich, Chair*  
*Orlando Corona, Vice Chair*  
*Linda Corona, Member*  
*Mary Mc Donald, Member*  
*Joyce Kutzer, Member*  
*David Tapscott, Liaison to Board of*



*Health*

**Town of Uxbridge Recycling  
and Sustainability Committee**

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2020 JAN 21 PM 1:55

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The meeting of the Recycling and Sustainability Committee was called to order at 6:00 on November 12, 2019 in the Staff Dining Room of the Uxbridge High School (the Library was not available at the designated time.)

**Present:**

Christine Zadykovich, Chair  
Orlando Corona, Member  
Linda Corona, Member  
Katie Dugan, Member  
David Tapscott, Liaison to the Board of Health

**Single Use Plastic Bags**

Two students have expressed interest independently in pursuing the idea of a plastic waste ban. One, Nicholas Mellen (508-688-7571) approached the BOH, and the other, Sam Noel (774-804-1156) approached the Town Manager. The TM was sent a reply email saying the RSC would reach out, and informed him of the current status of the statewide plastic waste ban. Various strategies were discussed including involvement in the Green Team, establishing a teacher or mentor to work with them, approaching the issue through local legislation.

Action: Orlando will contact them and explore what paths they are interested in and the degree of their interest and resources. Christine will assist him.

**Board of Health**

Municipal contract

The current status and strategies of the BOH were reviewed. The BOH voted to put the pursuit of a municipal contract on hold until the new Town Manager has been approached and until the Board of Selectmen has weighed in on the effort. After that a bid would be put out under the RFP process, even though it is not

necessary under MA state law. Once numbers and details of a contract are in hand, presenting this to the Town as a special town meeting, which would include the establishment of an enterprise fund for the financial transactions involved.

Presenting the whole recycling and trash program, with contract the part of a presentation, might make more of an impact on those who are just learning about it. Presenting the potential for textile and mattress recycling, hazardous waste collection, curbside composting and leaf pickup, metal recycling at a transfer station would offer a more complete view. The presentation needs to be fun and appealing, relatively simple and not too nuanced. For instance, the Recycle Smart website should be presented, but so should the principle of "When in doubt throw it out". Including a bag of non-recyclables thrown in with the single stream recycling might be confusing. Examples of the "when in doubt" principle were waxed cartons and black plastic.

Many details of why people objected to the program were reviewed. Three members thought an opt out program should be presented, since it would ensure a larger number of subscribers. Objections to the opt in program have centered around government overreach and are not likely to change even with the voluntary opt in program. Attleboro has an opt out program with abatements for those who pay a private trash hauler credited on a combined utility and waste bill. Attleboro offers the program only to single up to 4-unit dwellings.

A Motion was entertained and offered by Christine, seconded by Orlando as follows: We move that the RSC supports the BOH exploring the idea of an opt out municipal trash and recycling program.

The idea of an overall sustainability plan for Uxbridge was also discussed. David pointed out that the work of creating such a plan would fall on this committee. The economic and development planning does not consider sustainability although the MVP program does touch upon this as the MVP projects are applied for and implemented. The involvement of all of town government in the development of a sustainability plan was deemed necessary.

### Textiles

David presented the reservation voiced by Michael Rubin, the UHS principal, about an overflowing bin. Christine and others noted that many of the drop off bins already in existence are already trashed. These are placed on private property. It was brought up that residents are as likely to take items to the thrift store as they are to the UHS. Without curbside recycling a bin does not offer anything more.

Action: David will explore options of which materials Simple Recycling will pick up and again approach them about curbside pickup.

### Green Communities

The status of implementing the grant with steam traps and an energy management system for McCloskey was reviewed. For future grants the idea of municipally sponsored solar fields was mentioned. The dilemma presented by placement of privately owned/leased solar fields on open space was also discussed.

### **Library**

December the 9 is the next program, starting at 6:00. Christine will obtain name of the representative from Homeworks. The RSC will give opening remarks and introduce the representative. This is on library calendar and the RSC website.

Action: David will submit an announcement to be placed on the school system-wide email.  
Linda will create sign-up sheets and revise the Friends of RSC flyer  
Christine will create a display for the Library

### **Newsletter**

The next one will go out in on the third January and feature a piece on the single use plastic bags. Other items were discussed.

Action: Christine will create a template for articles and bring to the December meeting.

### **School Idling**

Signs were put up in the Whittin turnaround, which is only used by buses. National Grid owns the utility poles and the DPW would need to be involved with placement of any other signs where cars wait along the street. There are no signs at Taft preschool pickup area. State law says no idling no more than 5 minutes on school property.

Action: David will check out Town policy.  
Linda will ask if there are more signs for Taft

### **School Recycling Policy**

There is no effective recycling taking place as far as the teachers know.

Action: Mary will follow up with this.

### **Sutton Fields**

Solar power to run the Sutton Field refreshment stand is being explored and a local company, Solar Wolf, is involved. There was general agreement that RSC supports this self-contained solar panel idea, as opposed to using open space for investing in solar farms. The skate park was mentioned as a good model to use for fundraising.

Action: Orlando will check in with person who is doing this to get details.

### **We Can event**

The next event is to take place at the Tufts Vet school in Grafton on January 11<sup>th</sup>. They will take markers and since there is no active functioning school program Christine was thinking about getting a town collection going for markers to take there.

Action: David will get flyer and put onto school system notification system.  
Christine will pursue Town wide collection via the Terracycle box in Town Hall and will reach out to PTO's.

### **Terracycle**

Hasbro has a toy collection campaign going. Another Uxbridge resident is participating in this program in addition to Christine.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. A vote was unanimous in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Next meeting will be at 6:00 on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Location TBD. sc

Christine Zadykovich

Orlando Corona

Linda Corona

Katie Dugan