

## **Milford Recycling and Solid Waste Committee Meeting Minutes**

June 16, 2020 6:30 p.m.

Via Zoom Meeting

In Attendance:

Jerry Guthrie, Chair  
Celeste Barr, Secretary  
Gary Daniels, Selectmen's Rep.  
Mary Burdett, Vice Chair

Nancy Amato  
George Hoyt  
Jewell Griffin, guest

1. **Opening.** The meeting was opened at 6:32 p.m. by Chairman Jerry Guthrie.
2. **Approval of Minutes** The Committee will approve the May minutes at the July meeting.
3. **Old Business**

**Revised Ordinance**--Has been sent to Tina Philbrick for proofreading and numbering. Gary will follow up on this.

### **Signage at Recycling & Transfer Station**

The "Got Compost" signs were delivered. One is installed near the Compost Court at the Transfer Station. The 2nd one is available for flexible use.

### **Social Media Updates to the Public**

The committee discussed other mechanisms to inform residents about recycling changes during the pandemic.

1. Gary will ask Rick Riendeau if there is an extra electronic road sign to tell people "Recycling update: Glass Recycling is back!" Most people don't know glass is back online. Hopefully in the near future, other recyclables will be accepted again.
2. Mary will write a letter to Mr. Dokmo, owner of the electronic sign on building adjacent to Stone Bridge to ask if he can post Public Service announcements for free.
3. Nancy suggested posting on Nixlel, an advisory and alert system Milford uses, to update residents. We need to let them know they can sign up by texting 888777 and subscribing to notifications for zipcode 03055.

### **New Business**

George will write to John Shannon, Town Administrator, asking if the Recycling Committee/Center can purchase 3 lettered sandwich board signs to better inform the public of changes at the recycling center such as 'Recycle Glass again' "Free sifted Compost available by the bucket" etc.

George will also ask in the same letter if we can look into water quality issues with the water at the Recycling Center.

## **Recycling Committee Charge**

The Selectmen are fine with the updated committee mission statement:

***The mission of the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee is to encourage people to practice the 5 Rs: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Rot (compost) and Recycle. The goal is to consume less by refusing and reducing purchases (especially single use materials), reusing and donating materials, composting their organic kitchen and garden waste and recycling what cannot be eliminated or reused.***

*Together with town officials, we can implement town policies, improve the current programs, and expand efforts to meet or exceed the waste reduction and recycling goals. By reducing natural resource waste and supporting the purchase of products with recycled content, we can improve the health of our environment and economy for generations to come.*

It was suggested that the Selectmen's charge of the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee be expanded because most of the current charge refers to recycling which we know now is only one part of waste minimization.

A June 2020 draft was proposed:

### **Town of Milford Recycling/Solid Waste Committee Charge (last amended July 25, 2011):**

- **Review the needs and the long-term goals of the Transfer Station and Recycling Center, and work annually with the Department of Public Works to contribute input to the Capital Improvement Plan, expand initiatives that promote zero waste and sustainability, and set annual recycling goals.**
- **Investigate and present proposals to the Selectmen to reduce solid waste and promote environmental sustainability and zero waste.**
- **Submit recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on how best to promote zero waste, environmental consciousness within the Town of Milford, address the needs of the Transfer Station and Recycling Center, with considerations given to the overarching goal of tackling climate change.**
- Review Recycling/Solid Waste Code 5.20, and if needed, develop potential revisions and submit recommended amendments to the Board of Selectmen for consideration

Mary, Nancy, George, Jerry and Celeste voted for the new Charge. Gary opposed it.

**DPW Recycling and Trash Data**

Mary will request an electronic copy of the report Rick Riendeau gave to the committee listing 15 years of trash and recycling tonnage.

**Transfer station video tour**

Mary and Nancy began writing a script for the Recycling Center video tour. However, everyone agreed it would be better to wait until all recycling operations are back online before making a video.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting will be July 21, 2020 via Zoom meeting.

6. **Adjournment:** George moved to adjourn the meeting. Celeste seconded the motion. Participants unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Celeste Philbrick Barr, Secretary