

Bridgton Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes, February 24, 2022

Members present: Sally Chappell, Kate Fitzcharles, Maureen Harpell, Therese Johnson, Donna Joss, Rachel Miller, and Select Board Member Bob McHatton

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by Chairperson Sally Chappell. Maureen H. made the motion to accept the February 10, 2022 meeting minutes, and everyone approved.

The remote meeting policy was reviewed. The committee decided to eliminate Section 4, #5, because we don't have executive sessions. Given that if the chair can only preside in person, the committee floated the idea of a vice chair in the event that Sally can't attend in person. Maureen H. moved that we elect a vice chair, and Donna seconded it. Therese volunteered to take on the role of vice chair, and everyone was in favor.

Bob let us know that the Select Board proposed the question of whether the vote for Pay Per Bag should happen in June or November 2022. The thought was that there would be more turnout in November and more time for public education on the subject, but also the more local focus in June could be beneficial. The committee decided that the Pay Per Bag vote should move forward on the ballot for June, given that everyone is currently talking about it. People might lose interest and momentum might be lost if we wait until November.

Therese gave an update on the Rotary initiative on engaging Lake Region High School students with Pay Per Bag. The presentation will be on Tuesday, March 22nd, and ideally there will be 2 members of the committee present. Rachel will update the PPB slides in time for that.

The PPB ordinance is with the lawyer, and our part on that is done.

The committee decided the budget request to the Select Board for the PPB education campaign should be \$1,500. Projected expenses will be the following: 4 quarter page ads in color in the Bridgton News @ \$200 each; 2500 postcards (to be sent a month prior to the vote) @ \$250, plus

postage; Magic Lantern rental cost for video viewing on PPB at about \$90/hour, plus cost of snacks; and Magic Lantern screen advertising.

The committee discussed PPB concerns and public comment. We should be ready to speak more specifically to pricing and what the town would save, also taking into account that the price of getting rid of trash is only going to keep increasing in cost for the town. The town manager ran numbers and projects it should be \$1.25 per 30 gallon bag. \$1.25 just offsets the cost of bag to the town, no profit. We really need our Wastezero contact to be in touch with the town.

There should be a meeting with campground owners, haulers, and Airbnb hosts to hear their questions and concerns. For example, how will haulers implement recycling if they don't already. Would they work with their customers to get two containers? Would they have a designated recycling pick-up day?

Maureen H. started up a Bridgton Recycles group on Facebook.

Harrison is doing Earth Day at their transfer station. We could consider something similar.

Sally printed up Ecomaine diversion incentives poster for use at future in-person events. Short of curbside recycling, the town of Bridgton has put into place so many incentives, and yet Bridgton recycling rate is only 20%. 20% represents what goes to Ecomaine (so not tires, any other waste not directed to Ecomaine, etc.)

After PPB, the committee's next focus can be on composting.

The next LRTV segment should be on composting, possibly in Maureen H.'s yard and in April for Earth Month. There should be a PPB segment on LRTV in May, talking about bag sizes, what camps will do, etc.

Signage at transfer station for what goes where could be improved.

Sally will do next Recycling Matters column in Bridgton News on equity. The columns should be signed as “[insert committee member name] for the Bridgton Recycling Committee.”

The next meeting will be March 10th (revised since to March 16th). Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

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Submitted by Rachel Miller, March 7, 2022