
Recycling Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, 12/17/2021 @ 9:00 AM Bridgton Town Office Downstairs Conference Room

Attendees

Sally Chappell (Chairperson, virtually), Kate Fitzcharles, Therese Johnson, Maureen McDevitt, Donna Joss, Maureen Harpell, Rachel Miller (virtually), and Steve Lisauskas (Waste Zero, virtually)


Agenda

Last Meeting Follow-up

1. Meeting called to order at 6:15 PM
2. Approval of minutes - Unanimous

New Business

3. Discuss options from Waste Zero with Steve L.
 - a. What can we tell citizens regarding other communities?
 - i. Each community varies
 - b. What issues are most important to Bridgton?
 - i. It is a tourist town - That affects how the community feels
 - c. Negative letters to the editor
 - d. Double taxes?
 - i. Citizens are looking for a reduction in taxes or an increase in services.
 - ii. Is the bag revenue going back into taxes or services reserve funds?
 1. Specific issue funded with monies - We need to find out what is paid.
 2. Do all funds go to the transfer station?
 3. All transfer station fees keep going up. PPB will ensure that our taxes do not keep going up to pay for these increases.

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4. We want to make sure that visitors are paying their fair share. PPB will ensure that happens.
 5. Transfer station fees will be lower when people make better decisions resulting in lower tipping fees.
 - iii. The Town Manager should write a letter as to what would be saved by PPB.
 1. Will needy individuals be eligible for discounted/free bags?
 2. PPB will be enacted 60 days after the vote.
 3. Bags will be available at Town Office, Transfer Station, Hannaford, Food City, True Value, and Paris Hardware?
 4. How are the dollars saved being used?
 5. We need to eliminate uncertainties.
 - iv. Kate, and Bob McHatton will meet with the Town Manager on Tuesday, 10/18 if possible. Others will join in if available.
 - v. We need an eye-catching advertisement in the Bridgton News.
 - e. Cost of bags
 - i. Probably \$.75 and \$1.25 - Cost to town is \$.16 and \$.32
 4. Discuss results from public hearing at Select Board meeting
 - a. Therese spoke to equity, prices, and low income.
 - b. I'm recycling - why should I have to pay more?
 - i. Should decrease the number of bags.
 - c. Gorham article discussed - More negative than positive.
 5. Construct ad on PPB for Bridgton News
 - a. What do we say in the ad?
 - b. When should the ad run?
 - c. We want to say something different from the postcard.
 - d. We should highlight Town Manager's letter,
 - e. Four points should be worked into the Town Manager's letter. These points should be expanded upon in the letter.
 - i. Letter about tourists
 - ii. Trash on road is not an issue

- f. Ad has expansion of those points,
 - g. Everyone on committee works on an ad and sends it to all by 10/18.
 - h. Interview could be too chatty - the Town Manager could give coherent answers from his past experience.
 - i. We need to clear up uncertainty about prices and process,
 - i. Will the bag price increase in a year?
 - ii. Future costs in transportation.
6. Next Recycling Mattersletter
- a. Rachel to write a letter to the editor from the perspective of an out of state homeowner/taxpayer.
7. Committee members' concerns and public comment
- a. Advertising costs spent in the previous month?
 - b. Sandwich boards need to be set up at Transfer Station indicating how much we are paying each month for trash and recycling.
 - i. Sally will check with Forrest to see if he will let us put these at the Transfer Station,
 - ii. Each month total tonnages are posted online - We will calculate costs and post each month.
 - c. We need to change the ordinance regarding human and animal waste, Currently states that it is not accepted, Ecomaine website states that it is.
8. Adjournment and set date for next meeting
- a. Adjourned at 7:35 PM
 - b. Next meeting on Thursday, October 20, 2022.

Next Meeting

October 20, 2022 @ 6:15 PM - Bridgton Town Office Downstairs Conference Room