

Bridgton Recycling Committee Meeting - September 14, 2023

ATTENDEES

Sally Chappell (Chair), Donna Joss, Therese Johnson, Jerry Walraven, Maureen McDevitt, Kate Fitzcharles, and Rachel Miller via "Go To Meeting".

Meeting called to order at 5:04 PM

AGENDA

Approval of minutes from July

- Donna made a motion to accept, and Jerry seconded it.

Guest Pat Bisang Discussion

- Pat wanted to come to our meeting to discuss PVC signs
 - PVC is used in most all signs that we see on the side of the road.
 - PVC signs are everywhere in Maine
 - Her car was damaged when a plow truck hit the sign and sent it flying into her windshield.
 - Pennsylvania is trying to recycle these signs for building blocks.
 - In 2008 PVCs were taken out of everything due to toxins. Why are they still being used in signage?
 - Pat went to see Susan Collins and to the state house to protest.
 - They are urging people to use wax coating
 - These signs are not recyclable or biodegradable
 - Norway and Sweden (European countries) have banned all PVCs by 2030.
 - 302 is a state highway, and the state has eminent domain for 33' in from the end of the road.

- It is illegal to have a sign on a state highway
 - They can only be on personal property, with owner's permission.
- Second topic for Pat was gravel pits
 - Outlawed in Vermont and Massachusetts. That's why the Massachusetts company came to Bridgton.
- Third topic was light pollution
 - No neon signs should be allowed, They have caused lightening bugs loss of reproduction.
 - Bumble bees have been declared extinct in Maine. The plastics in our environment make their way into hives and kill the queens. 40% of hives have been lost in Maine.
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Harvest Moon Festival Preparation

- Date has been changed to Sunday due to the hurricane
- Bob Peabody has agreed to supply trash containers and bags, and bring them to the transfer station.
- Donna and Jerry will be there at 11:30 to set up trash and recycling containers.
- Time for the event is from 2 to 10 PM
- Volunteers will come throughout the day. T-shirts will be provided.
- Donna will bring clynk bags to pick out returnable bottles for rotary.

October 5th Workshop

- Workshop has been changed to 10/19.
- Jerry met with Tori, Dave, Carrie and Bob regarding his ideas for the transfer station
 - First is a town energy audit
 - Need to apply for grants for energy audits
 - Nickai Deschenski is a grant writer who moved from New York.
- Jerry is starting a committee to work on this.
- Later discussion suggested merging the committees

Next Recycling Matters column

- Theresa will do an article on bottle redemptions at transfer station to benefit nonprofits. She does not feel that enough people are aware of the benefits to local nonprofits.

New Leadership

- Sally has decided to step down as chairperson of the recycling advisory committee.
- No one was willing to step up at this time due to other commitments. Sally will talk to Maureen H. to see if she would be willing.
- There was discussion on merging with other committees.
 - Jerry's committee possibly - Energy Efficiency Committee

Committee members concerns and public comment

- There are Apparel Impact bins in both Raymond and Windham. They are very clean.
- The bins at the transfer station have been full and not accepting donations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM