

# RECYCLING COMMITTEE *MINUTES* FEBRUARY 26, 2020

Ayer Recycling Committee Meeting Agenda  
Wednesday, February 26, 6-8pm  
Ayer Town Hall  
1st floor meeting room

Attending: Irene Congdon, Shawna Graham, Becky Jones, Steve Rogers, Laurie Sabol

1. Review and approve minutes from September 4 meeting
  - a. Approved
2. Updates from Laurie
  - a. Are there enough food waste compost bins at Transfer Station
    - i. Irene suggested adding sawdust and/or leaves to reduce odor and insects.
    - ii. Laurie will talk to Mark about 2 more bins. Maybe one could have sawdust in it.
    - iii. Statewide, 25% of our trash is food waste.
  - b. Business cards were distributed. Can design stickers for the back of the card as necessary.
  - c. Single-use plastic bag reduction bylaw
    - i. draft text has been sent to the selectmen
    - ii. Update after meeting: Laurie has been invited to the 3/17 BOS meeting to discuss. Feel free to attend!
  - d. Green Team and schools
    - i. Laurie emailed several school administrators and teachers about the Green Team a few months ago but didn't receive any response.
    - ii. Irene stressed that individual teachers should sign up and complete the questionnaire, even if it is to say that the school is not currently engaged in any green practices.
    - iii. Laurie will contact Kathryn Lyon at the ASMS to try to gauge interest.
    - iv. We can offer an RDP-funded stipend for teachers at the two Ayer schools. Ask Mark.
    - v. The Ayer schools have a recycling policy from 2010. Regionalized in 2011. Irene will check to see if she has an updated policy.
    - vi. Shawna will contact the superintendent.
    - vii. Should we meet with the school committee again, especially to discuss the recycling policy?
    - viii. As of June 2021 schools must have recycling in place in order for the town to receive grant funds.
  - e. PR activities
    - i. Laurie reported that Facebook and print PR is ongoing and receives some positive feedback.
    - ii. Noted the Ayer-Shirley Tracker newspaper (also on Facebook) is a new PR outlet.
    - iii. "Bring your good Mason jars to the swap shed" will be added to PR topic list.
    - iv. HB 389. We are encouraged to support it.
  - f. Redeemable containers program

- i. Decided to discontinue work on this. Masons are doing as well as other organizations. Laurie will promote these initiatives as info is published.
    - ii. H 2881 to add nip bottles to the bottle bill. Will encourage residents to support.
  - g. 2019 Solid Waste & Recycling Survey/RDP spending report to the MassDEP
    - i. DPW has \$5600 in RDP funds to spend. Laurie will talk to Mark about projects that can be funded with RDP dollars.
    - ii. Messaging about collecting rigid plastics at Transfer Station is inconsistent
    - iii. How to assure that all muni buildings are recycling so that we can apply for RDP funds.
- 3. Other business
  - a. KAB 2020 plan and Earth Day 50 (4/22)
    - i. Promote as 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day.
    - ii. Register on DEP, Earth Day, KMB
      - 1. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FMKZJBB>
      - 2. <https://www.earthday.org/actions/register-your-earth-day-event/>
    - iii. Should buy 30 more grippy things. Becky may be able to buy.
    - iv. Post to Dona to distribute to Devens businesses.
    - v. 9-1pm both days. Remind about Townsend Earth Day on Sat.
    - vi. Do we want to extend to Friday so that businesses might get more involved?
    - vii. Steve Rogers will contact Chuck King and Melissa Fetterhoff at the NVCOC.
  - b. For BOH, survey local textiles bins with possibility of adding more.
    - i. LS make sticker: wet = trash, go to Beyond the Bin to find another bin.
    - ii. Shawna and Dan will survey:
      - 1. Where is the bin, Whose it is, contact info
      - 2. Planet Aid, St Vincent DePaul, etc
      - 3. Make sure they're all on Beyond the Bin.
  - c. New business
    - i. Mar 4, 10am Boston Reuse Committee call. Irene will forward info.
    - ii. Mar 21 and April 4, Tufts Grafton, Irene can use help.
- 4. Action items, schedule next meeting
  - a. Laurie will talk to Mark about
    - i. two more food waste bins
    - ii. how to assure that muni bldgs are recycling
    - iii. RDP funds (\$5600)
      - 1. MassRecycle or NERC conference registration
      - 2. stipend with some of our RDP funds for teachers for the two Ayer schools
    - iv. messaging about collecting rigid plastics at the TS
  - b. Laurie will talk to Town Admin Robert Pontbriand about updating/publicizing Buy Recycled policy.
  - c. Laurie will contact Kathryn Lyon at the ASMS.
  - d. Laurie will think further about meeting with school committee about recycling policy.

- e. Laurie will begin promoting our annual cleanup weekend and will register it on the DEP, KMB and Earth Day websites.
  - f. Irene will check to see if she has an updated Ayer-Shirley schools recycling policy.
  - g. Irene will check with Matt at Gold Circuit about a possible styro recycling event in the fall.
  - h. Shawna will contact Dr Mary Malone, ASRSD superintendent, about encouraging Green Team use. Laurie will send Shawna info.
  - i. Becky will buy 30 gripper thingies and save receipt for reimbursement.
  - j. Steve Rogers will contact Chuck King and Melissa Fetterhoff at the NVCO. Laurie will send Steve info.
  - k. Shawna and Dan will survey Ayer textile bins
    - i. Where is the bin, Whose it is (Planet Aid, St Vincent DePaul, other)
    - ii. Once survey is complete we'll make sure they're listed on the Beyond the Bin website.
  - l. All: if you want to help at the reuse events at the Tufts Vet school campus on Mar 21 and/or April 4, contact Irene.
  - m. All: mark your calendar for the next meeting: 9/23, 6-8pm.
5. Adjourn 8pm

Rebecca L. Jones  
Member, Ayer Recycling Committee  
June 9, 2021

