

Ayer Recycling Committee 2/1

Attending: Dan Demille, Shawna Graham, Melissa Macdonald, Faisal Mohammed (visitor), Laurie Sabol

1. Annual statistics – not sure why this was on the agenda!

Question for future exploration: If we are a town that doesn't allow businesses to use the transfer station, does that count against our recycling rate? How would anyone compare town that does vs one that doesn't?

ACTION: Who will contact Tessa or Irene to ask about this?

2. Job descriptions

Looking to formalize...

Currently have mission on our website on the town homepage (new as of a few weeks ago). See <http://www.ayer.ma.us/recycling-committee>

Laurie wants us to actively generate/carry out projects. Individual members should take leadership roles in carrying out projects, ie Bd. Of Health liaison...

See page 3 below for job descriptions received from members of the Recycling elist.

See page 4 below for project list.

ACTION

- Laurie asked Irene and Tessa if they have some more job descriptions.
- Discuss pros and cons and make conclusions at April meeting.

3. Report on school recycling – Melissa

Laurie: ARC could donate some \$ toward programs to supplement or stand in for ASEP grants Melissa plans to apply for for educational programs (Jack Golden "Trash is My Bag" and/or Alliance for Climate Education (ACE) for high school level).

Shawna recommended Johnny Fireseed band with recycled instruments as a possibility.

ACTION: Putting it on agenda for future meeting to talk about how to support the schools after SMRP grant expires June 30.

4. Repair Café

Faisal Mohammed from Littleton Common Makers in attendance to discuss working with ARC to put together a repair café.

Laurie summary of Bolton's efforts: we publicized Bolton's at our last RYR. Bolton does it quarterly and has been holding these for past two years. Gets support/sponsorship from local Rotary.

Theirs was in school cafeteria...hat tables, electricity, space to spread out. A traffic director guided her to service she wanted: some were electronics, knife sharpening, seamstresses. Have an intake form for needs/arrival time and feedback space for after.

Bolton organizer is willing to attend an Ayer Rotary meeting to help us gain support for the concept in Ayer area.

Faisal: Ayer resident. Littleton Common Makers open since November, about 600 square feet in the space. Possibly Great Hall at Ayer Town Hall as a location.

Steve Branam (woodworking), Mike Audette (tech/tinkering)

Customers pay for own parts. Possibly ask local hardware stores to donate gift cards to help with that.

Faisal suggests also having a Makerfaire concurrently to show off some of the LC Makers' capabilities and/or wares.

Can also develop a QR code/online feedback form (needs aesthetic help) to ask people if they would be interested in being a repair person or bringing stuff to repair (so we know what kinds of areas people are looking for).

How to generate interest in both helping and attending

ACTION

- Shawna to talk to Town Hall and check June dates – 4th, 11th, 18th
- Faisal will talk to Bolton organizers (Ray) to see if some of their volunteers will help and to ask if he would attend local Rotary meeting
- ARC responsible for logistics, location, date, promotion.
- Laurie will contact Littleton, Groton and Shirley RCs. Maybe get Ayer Business Alliance involved.

5. Great American Cleanup tie in for A Cleaner Ayer (rebranding Townwide Cleanup)

Have new signs (or can get them?) via RDP money.

Have about \$5500K from past two years. New yard signs one possibility.

Keep Ayer Beautiful branding

ACTION

- LS Send Dan graphics from KMB and this doc (done)
- Dan will talk to J&S and Shirley printer (Melissa to provide info on that), Dan and Shawna will talk to rotary fast food places about volunteers.
- LS will do publicity (including BOS meeting), banners at rotary and AFD, contact Andrew, DD, register event on retrac for great American cleanup
- Melissa will generate volunteers via Scouts (Boy, Cub, Girl, Daisy) leaders and Amy Allaire at NHS from High School for volunteers.
- Dan to identify who will work it? Several of us volunteered

6. Transfer station/town recycling post card

Laurie has started process of working with Kim Becker who plans to charge us \$75 for design and also possibly do a large scale poster for the schools and/or Town Hall.

Moving away from kid competition. Laurie in touch with Mark W re mailing cost.

Considering ways to keep mailing cost down: excise bills, standalone, sewer/water bills, other?

ACTION

Laurie will write report for RDP grant with general outline of how we plan to spend the grant.

7. Next meeting Wed, April 6, 7pm, Town Hall

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Groton The Committee organized the recycling program in the 1980s when the Town landfill was closed and planning and construction of the Transfer Station began. The Committee is currently responsible for continuing to find better recycling methods **and** advising the BoH on recycling regulations and practices. Recycling is mandated by the Town.

Lowell Established; function and purpose. The Committee shall provide advice, assistance and recommendations to the Commissioner regarding the City's waste collection and recycling program. All Committee members shall believe in and support the interests of waste collection and recycling programs.

Salem Mission: To motivate residents, visitors and businesses to recycle more and waste less through reducing, reusing, and recycling. SalemRecycles is an all volunteer committee, which promotes increased resident recycling and improved recycling practices by residents and businesses. This is done through events, educational materials, producing videos, writing articles for all varieties of media, and researching different approaches to communication and education. Responsibilities:

1. Attend and participate in monthly meeting
2. Take a leadership role in projects, such as creating materials, organizing events, writing articles, etc.
3. Attend and participate in events held by SR or where SR is a participant
4. Recruit additional volunteers for specific events and projects
5. Participate in creating committee direction and implementation of ideas
6. Work with the Mayor's office, Chamber, town committees on projects
7. Meet with community and participate in events, such as Science fairs, Clean Salem Green Salem, etc.
8. Continually promotes positive recycling and green practices when possible
9. Expand and initiate other programs with residents and businesses

PROJECT IDEAS

1. From Irene
 - mattress and carpet program- Grant pays for transportation and processing for 2 years.
 - Reuse events at library (puzzle night). From Irene: think about the senior center and housing. Many libraries already have a puzzle/game swap area. Talk with crafters.
2. From Mark
 - recycling for paint, mattresses or food waste/organics. Need to connect with Shop and Save and see what they are doing and if we can work together on organics.
 - the town should create a solid-waste plan stating what we do, what we would like to do, hours of transfer station/brush dump etc. We already do XYZ, how can we add styro, plastic bags, increased hours, recycling for condos. How can we make recycling easier to manage?
3. Community flea market: decided not to pursue at this time (5/15)
4. Multifamily housing recycling: could each development get a sticker, not each household?
5. Consider buying a domain such as Ayer Recycles and redirect to Ayer website.
6. Could we have our recyclables rated? Check with Andrew. Promote responses.
7. Learn more about hauler regulations
8. Library/town hall recycling
9. Work with Nashoba Valley C of C re CET/Recycling Works, Ayer BoH, Ayer energy committee
10. Keep America Beautiful/Keep Massachusetts Beautiful
 - Should Ayer consider becoming a KAB affiliate?
 - National planting day
 - Cigarettes at parks? What is our bylaw?
 - Litterbusters: Mansfield, regular areas that people look at year-round
 - New Bedford does 5 cleanups a year. Local businesses host cleanups and the headquarters, also provide trucks to pick up the trash
 - Scott Wilson, Director of Roadway Operations, MassDOT
 - Adopt a highway. DOT provides vests, bags, tools.
<https://www.massdot.state.ma.us/highway/DoingBusinessWithUs/PermitsRoadAccessPrograms/AdoptAHighway.aspx>
 - Look at the KAB litter index
 - Look at KAB "I Want to be Recycled" spots