



Bath Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Meeting of June 10, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Susan Bauer, Lee Leiner, Peter Owen, Aaron Park, Lou Ricciardone, George Sprague, Brook Vail

Members Absent: Paul Perkins

Guests: Mari Eosco, Lindsey Goudreau, One member of the public

Agenda:

- Review and approve minutes of previous meeting
- Recycling education
- Composting
- Adjourn

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was offered and the vote was unanimous to accept.

Lee summarized past efforts at educating the public about various recycling topics.

The discussion went to recycling education within the school system. Mari reported that there is an item on the agenda of the next school board meeting (6 PM, June 17, BMS) to create an ad hoc committee to address recycling issues at the various schools of RSU1. If the board agrees to create such a committee, there may be room to have a member of this committee attend those meetings. This effort is driven by kids, mostly at Fisher Mitchell elementary. It is generally agreed that an emphasis on recycling education within the school system would be effective in educating the broader community.

The conversation ranged widely to topics beyond the school effort.

- There are many misconceptions about recycling and trash in Bath floating around on social media and the platforms should be used to clarify the various programs.
- The public should be informed that the recycling program may need to be discontinued due to increased costs, at least partially driven by contamination.
- Messaging on any/all platforms should be less harsh environmental concern and more positive impact
- The effort could be tied into any plans to increase PAYT bag fees
- The committee should create a series of very short videos (30-60 sec) for use on BCTV, website, and social media. Also teachers could integrate watching or making videos into their recycling curriculum. A subcommittee of Brook, Lindsey, and Mari will start to write scripts/messages.
- The idea of an educational display table for Heritage Days was discussed. However, time is too short to get organized for that effort. The backup plan would be to have a table at either/both Citizen Involvement Day on October 12 or Kindness Day on August 17.
- Can Garbage to Garden have a Heritage Days booth to offer compost bins for sale?
- Who is the target audience and what is the message? It was agreed that there are multiple audiences and more than one message will be needed.
- There should be a marketing plan for recycling.
- Recycling information should be distributed to new residents in welcome packets. Realtors could also be asked to give out this information.
- Could an open house be hosted at the landfill? Yes with some planning.

Discussion then turned to the status of adding larger units to the City's curbside collection program. At the May meeting, the committee voted to make a recommendation to the City Council to expand the curbside collection program to 3, 4, 5, and 6-unit properties. Peter explained that there are concerns with adding downtown residential units to the program that would result in piles of trash or recycling placed on Front and Centre Streets. A map was shown indicating that those areas would be off-limits for piles in favor of other, less impactful, consolidated locations. Language would have to be added to any ordinance adjustment to implement this concept. There was support for moving forward with the unit-related changes to the ordinance, even if the street limitation concept is not yet ready. It could be added later.

Peter Flaherty was present and was asked to comment on the email he sent to the committee chair on June 8, 2019:

- While some landlords may be financially motivated to have their residents included in the City PAYT program, he is not. He gets housing vouchers to operate low-income housing.
- Encouraging recycling is personal to him.

Next meeting: **July 15, 2019, 4:00 PM in the 2nd Floor conference room, city hall.**