

## Bloomfield Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes for September 8, 2021

- I. **Call to Order: 7:05pm**
- II. **Roll Call:** Bryan Crawley, Joyce Hilton (arrived at 7:35pm), Mark Stulbaum, Councilman Nick Joanow, and Recycling Coordinator Louise Palagano
- III. **Approval of Minutes :** Due to a lack of a quorum, the August 11, 2021 minutes were not approved at this meeting and will be approved at the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- IV. **Old Business:**
  - a) **Recycle Coach Activity Reports for August 2 nd-September 2nd-** Louise distributed the 30-day reports and summarized some of the highlights for the recycling committee. She did mention that she is receiving quite a few calls in the last month asking about the pickup of bulky items: day and the number of items allowable.
  - b) **Recycling at Schools Update (Michael)-** Louise read an email she received a copy of from Bill Manning, Custodial Manager, for the Bloomfield school system that was originally sent to Councilman Joanow regarding issues with the garbage and recycling dumpsters not being picked up at the schools. Councilman Joanow asked Louise to forward this email chain to BOE Liaison Michael Heller. Councilman Joanow also mentioned that with the use of Chromebooks now at the schools office paper will be decreasing. Also, Bill's letter mentions pest control issues at the schools which is a health and safety issue which needs to be addressed with a planned strategy. Louise will review Bill's concerns with Michael at the October recycling meeting.
  - c) **Reusable Tote Bag Fundraising Campaign (Ed/CM Joanow) -**Louise mentioned that she made 15 color copies for Councilman Joanow of the solicitation letter and will make them available to any of the other recycling committee members that wants to solicit businesses in person and not email them.
  - d) **Recycling PSA on WBMA -**Louise will follow-up with Bob Duthaler on the status of our recycling PSA to run on WBMA in the very near future.
  - e) **Styrofoam Recycling Update -**Louise mentioned that she emailed Bill Bartlett, Glen Ridge DPW Director, on September 1<sup>st</sup> as requested by the Recycling Committee about possibly working together on collecting Styrofoam. Louise feels that due to Tropical Storm IDA which hit soon

after her email was sent and the possible damage in Glen Ridge resulting from the Tropical Storm that he has not had the opportunity to respond, but she will follow-up with him.

- f) **Compost Act Lobbying (C/M Joanow)** -Councilman Joanow summarized the Act saying it establishes a USDA-led grant and loan guarantee program to provide \$200 million in funding annually over 10 years for a range of composting facilities and programs. Mark mentioned the benefits of composting and suggested possibly using Java's Compost in Bloomfield and having a compost community, with each home having a 5 gallon container to be picked up on a weekly or biweekly plan. Councilman Joanow discussed in detail other options regarding composting.
- g) **Food Waste Bill Update (C/M Joanow)**- Councilman Joanow reiterated that Governor Murphy signed the Food Waste Bill into Law (A2371) in April which will go into effect in 18 months. The law requires generators of food waste such as hospitals, prisons, restaurants and supermarkets to recycle food garbage rather than send it to incinerators or landfills.

v. **New Business:**

- (a) **Joint Composting Meeting with Dr. Nicholas J. Smith-Sebasto, Wed., Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>- 7:30pm, Virtual on Zoom** -Councilman Joanow announced this joint composting meeting he organized with Dr. Smith –Sebasto as guest speaker along with the Recycling Committee and Environmental Commission. He wants him to discuss his biodigester again so that these two committees will be well versed on this topic and can then have future discussions in order to make recommendations to the Mayor and Council. Louise was asked to invite Wayne DeFeo our solid waste garbage and recycling consultant that was recently retained by the Township to negotiate our upcoming garbage/recycling contract to join us for this meeting.

vi. **Next Meeting-Wed., November 10-7pm, Virtual on Zoom**

vii. **Adjournment- 7:59pm**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Louise Palagano  
Recycling Coordinator**