



RECYCLING

Minutes

March 10, 2021

Submitted by Claire Anderson

Attendance: Claire Anderson, Nick Joanow, Louise Palagano, Mark Stulbaum, Edgar Garcia, George Drossinos, Michael Heller, Oliver Young

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Approval of minutes-February 10, 2021-The minutes were approved-George Drossinos moved to approve and Oliver Young seconded.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Recycling Committee meeting was held via Zoom.

Recycle Coach

Louise summarized the 30 day user report; there were no comments. She will try to make changes ahead of time. There were no changes for March and April. In May we will post the shredding day details and make sure the recycling changes for Memorial Day are noted.

Bloomfield Schools

There are no changes in recycling at the schools; The date of 4/19 has been set for children to return to school. It will be a hybrid model with half of the children in school and the other half attending remotely. The meeting of the BOE Finance and Facilities Committee and the Recycling Committee to recognize Maschios will take place at 6pm on April 14th, right before the Recycling Committee's regular meeting. Under Maschio's leadership the styrofoam food trays were changed to compostable trays. During the meeting on April 14th they will be able to talk about some of their sustainability efforts; questions can be sent to Louise who will forward them to Vicki. As long as Vicki gets them by 4/8 then Maschios will have a chance to prepare answers. Oliver will ask members of the Environmental Commission if they wish to attend. A student, who is on the Environmental Commission, gave a report about attending BOE meetings; Oliver will try to get more information from her. At the Board meeting on 2/23 their new sustainability policy was passed; it is on the Board's website. The Essex County Environmental Center is sponsoring art through recycling projects for the week of Earth Day. Michael will take the information to the schools to see if they wish to participate.

Covanta

Louise sent all the committee members a newspaper article that mentions Covanta releasing polluting chemicals in Chester, PA. Covanta is the owner of the incinerator in Newark where Bloomfield's trash is sent. Some citizen groups in Newark also say that harmful pollutants are being released in Newark.

Plastic Bag Reduction law

There are no new developments regarding the Plastic Bag Reduction law. The sub-committee of Nick, Edgar and Oliver met to talk about the design of the reuseable bags. They showed the committee a sample of the logo on a laptop. They want to put a map of Bloomfield or a picture of city hall in the middle of the recycling logo. They haven't looked into the cost yet, but wanted to know when the bags should be ready. The May 8th shredding date seems to be too soon; Louise says she will be very busy during the month of April. She would like to see the bags ready in the Fall or late Summer. Nick agreed it was better to wait for more businesses to re-open, they will then have a better idea how much they can donate.

Styrofoam Recycling

We had a discussion about possibly coordinating styrofoam recycling with other communities. Lyle Landon, who works for ANJEC and is a member of the Montclair Environmental Commission(MEC), sent an email to Oliver and Louise about coordinating with us, Cedar Grove and Verona. She doesn't mention Glen Ridge, although we know they have started their own styrofoam recycling program. If local DPW's are not able to handle this additional recycling, she is talking about getting a group of volunteers to rent a truck and transport the collected styrofoam to one of 2 recycling sites. There is interest in Bloomfield, but more details would have to be worked out.

Sustainable Jersey certification

Oliver talked about the Sustainable Jersey certification that the Environmental Commission is working on. It had been submitted by Greener Bloomfield in the past, but that organization is in hiatus. It had been due 12/2020, but got extended for a year due to Covid. The EC is planning to finish it by June. We can get points for our 2 shredding days last year; we need documentation and pictures from 2020. Louise will get those. We can also get points for drop-off recycling facilities like the DPW yard; we also need pictures and proof of what days the yard was open. There are other ways to get extra points such as non-mandated recycling and grass cycling, but the EC will probably stick to the basic certification at this time. There are many towns in NJ that are not certified, but it is important to Bloomfield to maintain our certification. Michael said the BOE passed a resolution to participate in Sustainable Jersey; there are separate requirements for schools. Lou Capello is working on documenting the school's points. It is possible some of the school's requirements could also be used for the town's certification.

Food Waste

George reported that his company has agreed to subsidize participation in Java Compost, which picks up residential food waste and composts it, for its employees. He hopes about 40 employees will take part. He also reported that he is moving out of Bloomfield and so the April meeting will be his last.

Shredding Day

The next Shredding Day will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2021 at Pulaski Park from 9am to 12 noon. It will also be an opportunity to educate Bloomfield residents about the importance of recycling.

The next regular meeting of the Recycling Committee will be on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting with Maschios will be at 6pm just prior to the Recycling Committee meeting. Louise will speak to Vicki about the zoom link.

Adjournment: 8:04pm

The next meeting of the Bloomfield Recycling Committee will be held on Wed., April 14, 2021 at 7pm on Zoom.