



**Submitted by Claire Anderson**

**Attendance:** Claire Anderson, Edgar Garcia, Nick Joanow, Michael Heller, Joyce Hilton, Louise Palagano

Call to Order: 7:08 pm

Approval of minutes-Feb 13, 2019-Michael Heller said that what was reported about the HS compactor was incorrect-Claire will change and re-send. Otherwise the minutes were approved, Michael Heller moved to approve and Edgar Garcia seconded.

**A. Brookdale Gardens** - Joyce Hilton, who lives in Brookdale Gardens, said that the situation at the large apartment complex has not changed. They are still not recycling paper and cardboard; they need a dumpster for residents to put their paper and cardboard recycling in. On the weeks that comingled recycling is scheduled the trucks that pick up recycling come into the complex and pick it up. But on the weeks when paper and cardboard are scheduled, the trucks just pass by and the maintenance people put the cardboard in with the trash. Louise will refer this matter to the Dept of Health, so they can look into it.

**B. Recycling at the Schools** – Mr. Fleres, who is the Green Team Coordinator for the school system, says that their dumpsters are overflowing with cardboard. Anthony Nesto had suggested that the school custodians could bring their cardboard to the DPW yard. It is a problem for the Roselle trucks to get to the dumpsters after 7am when teachers and staff start to arrive and fill up the parking lot. The school board would like the administration building and all the schools to be picked up before 7am. Since the schools are scattered throughout every district, the recycling truck would have to go out of their way to get them all picked up before that time. Michael Heller was at the school board meeting when this was being discussed and he told them that Roselle and the township are both trying hard to find a solution to this problem. Nick suggested we should have a meeting with the head of facilities and Mr Fleres to try to come to a resolution. Louise will see if someone from Roselle can also attend. Saturday pickup could be a solution, but would cost the township additional money.

Susan Hebert from Greener Bloomfield sent an email to Louise saying that a teacher from Berkeley School had contacted them to talk at the school about sustainability and recycling; that teacher had mentioned problems with recycling after the breakfast program. Nick says he may be able to go to Berkeley School next Tuesday at 2pm when Greener Bloomfield is going. Nick had already attended a previous meeting at Berkeley about recycling for the breakfast program. Louise will give Michael some Recycling Committee brochures so he can distribute them to school staff. Louise spoke to a company called Grand Falloon Shows that do recycling programs in schools. The show is called "Earth Science Circus Assembly". They would talk about recycling and reducing litter and would incorporate magic and other fun ideas to keep the children interested for 35 minutes. The cost is \$750 per show and Louise wants to do two in one day at Oakview and Berkeley Schools, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. She is trying to set a date. The Principal at Oakview is going to get the numbers on how much paper each classroom is recycling. Maybe prizes can be given out when they have the assembly.

**Digester Pilot Project – No change.**

**E. Other** –Our paper shredding event is coming up on April 27th in the parking lot of the Board of Education from 9am to 12 noon. Volunteers are needed; more recycling bins have been ordered plus labels for residents to put on their containers. The brochure about recycling will be given out and Nick says we should also have a leaflet to advertise the North End Electronics Recycling/Big Truck Day that is happening on May 18th. Gaby from the Recreation Dept is designing a leaflet for Big Truck Day that will go out to the schools; a press release will also be done. The day after the shredding event Greener Bloomfield is sponsoring an Earth Day celebration in Brookside Park. Some members of the committee will attend. Bulk garbage information needs to be put in our brochure; 3 bulk items can be placed at the curb on your 2nd garbage pickup day; there are always calls requesting that information. Also the list of the numbers on plastic containers that can be recycled in Bloomfield was left out of the Buzz last time; it will be in the next issue. The 2nd Ward meeting hosted by Councilman Joanow had a great turnout, about 70 people. Louise spoke about recycling and voting; people want copies of the recycling schedule which is in the Buzz. Louise sent all committee members a link to a recycling video so we can all watch it.

The recycling contract is up at the end of 2019; it is a 3-year contract and can be renewed for 1 year for the same cost. If we want to re-negotiate, the costs could go up and we might not get any lower bids. Last time a consultant, Wayne DeFeo, was hired to negotiate it. We will have to see if changes are needed to work with the schools on recycling; possibly Roselle will have some ideas for that situation. The League of Municipalities has initiated a Government Beautification Program to spruce up the town's important buildings by cleaning up and planting bushes. There will be an event on April 13th from 8am-11am at the library/animal shelter. O'Boyle's Landscaping will provide bushes and mulch. Louise announced that there is a vacancy on the Recycling Committee that needs to be filled. Anyone interested can send her their resume. Louise has the name of a resident who has been in contact with her about recycling issues. Michael also has spoken to a teacher from Berkeley School who is interested; he told her to send her resume to Louise. An article from the NYTimes on 3/16/19 was discussed. It talked about the problems many municipalities are having finding a market for their recycling and whether the costs are worth it. A suggestion was made that companies need to incorporate the cost of

recycling into the actual cost of a product. Louise mentioned the Hefty bag recycling program where articles that are not usually recycled are put into a Hefty bag to be picked up at the curb; it was unclear exactly how the items would then be recycled. Nick wanted to know if we can arrange a tour of Wakefern's(Shop-rite) bag recycling center in Elizabeth.

Meeting adjourned: 8:18 pm.

**The next meeting of the Bloomfield Recycling Committee will be held on Wed., April 10, 2019 at 7pm on the 2nd floor of the Police Law Enforcement Building.**