

## Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2019

**Call to Order:** 7:05pm

**Roll Call:** Edgar Garcia, Michael Heller, Joyce Hilton, Mark Stulbaum, Oliver Young, Council Liaison Nicholas Joanow and Recycling Coordinator Louise Palagano

**Approval of Minutes-May 8, 2019:** Edgar Garcia moved and Mark Stulbaum seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All present approved the minutes with Michael Heller abstaining.

### **Old Business:**

**Recycling Committee Vacancy-**Louise re-distributed George Drossinos' resume for the committee's review as a potential recycling committee member. The committee members each introduced themselves to George who was present for the entire meeting. George then explained to the committee his interest as to why he would like to serve on the recycling committee and a little bit about how his recycling knowledge. Subsequently, George was appointed by Councilman Joanow at the Township Council meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup>. He was also sworn in by Mayor Venezia at the same meeting.

**Recycling at Schools Update-**Louise reviewed correspondence from Randi Roselle regarding additional recycling pickups at the Middle School/High School (\$1300 per month -2 extra pickups per week per school) and 9 grammar schools (\$720 per month-1 extra pickup for mixed paper). It was mentioned that the contract would only be for 10 months, not 12. The matter was discussed in detail and it was recommended that Louise meet with the School Board Business Administrator, Vicki Gao to discuss.

**Brookdale Gardens/Essex House Update-**Louise reviewed communications from Vinnie Nicosia, Chief REHS, Bloomfield Department of Health & Human Services, to the owners of 249 Belleville Avenue and 935 Broad Street regarding mandatory paper recycling and commingled recycling not being performed at those locations. Louise will follow up with Vinnie and report back for our next meeting.

**Hefty EnergyBag Program Update-**Louise re-introduced The Dow Chemical Company-Hefty EnergyBag Grant program's recipient agreement and grant application. She also asked George Drossinos to speak to the committee about the program as he had recommended this grant in March. The matter was discussed in detail including that the township would have to match funding for the July 12<sup>th</sup> deadline. It was decided to pursue this next year and participate in their one-hour webinar introducing applicants to the program. It was also decided that Louise should discuss this with the school business administrator at their meeting and for Ms. Gao to then reach out to Bill Manning, Maintenance Supervisor.

**Milk and Juice Cartons Followup-**Louise emailed Suburban Disposal/Roselle asking if milk and orange juice containers are acceptable items in our mixed paper weeks. John Roselle responded that "milk and orange juice containers usually have a wax coating on them and that makes them garbage."

**Recap: May 16<sup>th</sup>-ANJEC Roundtable on Single-Use Plastic Pollution-7pm, Madison Community House, 25 Cook Avenue, Madison-**Councilman Joanow attended this event and reported back to the committee. It was agreed by the committee that ShopRite would conform to a plastic ban if all the other

stores in the community did it. Discussion ensued regarding enforcement. Also, Councilman Joanow mentioned that the Environmental Commission had a resolution template from the State of NJ.

**Recap: May 18<sup>th</sup>-Big Truck & Electronics Recycling Day-9am-Noon, Parking Lot across from Brookdale Baptist Church**-Louise showed the committee two Caterpillar “Matching Games” (licensed merchandise from Caterpillar, Inc.) that she purchased for the random winners of the drawing that she will be selecting in the next two weeks from the cards completed on the day of the event by the kids who attended.

**Recap: May 31<sup>st</sup>-Shredding for Township Departments-9:30-11am, Town Hall Parking Lot**-Louise reported that 3724 lbs (1.862 tons) of paper were collected by the township departments at their shredding event.

**New Business:**

**“Light Duty”-Recycling Inspector**-Louise stated that the subject of inspectors were brought up in great detail in her recycling classes and she is now suggesting that this should be a goal for the future. She stated that she will be discussing this topic with the Township Administrator and Department Heads and will suggest that future employees that are placed on Light Duty could be utilized to inspect curbside recyclables as well as leave educational recycling flyers at each location. It was also suggested that the Recycling Committee go out as a group and inspect recyclables on one of their meeting nights (and bring some young people with them) to educate the residents firsthand.

**“Dream Mats” Project**-Louise explained that this is a joint venture between the Bloomfield Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Department, Bloomfield Public Library and our Recycling Program for the fall. The “Dream Mats” (used as a clean surface for those in need for sleeping) are to be made from plastic bags using large crochet hooks. The plan is to collect the plastic bags during the summer and begin the actual weaving of the mats in the fall. Louise found out from Gabriela Guida from Recreation that it takes between 500-700 plastic bags to create one dream mat. The committee suggested that a collection location for the plastic bags be set up at Town Hall. Louise will speak to Gabby about setting that location up.

**Next Recycling Committee Meeting Discussion**-Louise stated that she will be on vacation for the July 10<sup>th</sup> Recycling Committee. Councilman Joanow stated that he will be away as well. A brief discussion ensued and it was agreed upon that the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting be cancelled, and that Louise is to send out an email to the committee about options for the summer: schedule a meeting later in July and cancel the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting or have the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting as scheduled.

**Next Meeting**-Wed., August 14<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Rm. 205, LEB

**Adjournment:** 8:22pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Louise Palagano  
Recycling Coordinator