

## North Yarmouth Recycling Committee

Minutes: January 3rd, 2021

**Attendees:** Laurie Gilman, Scott Kaplan, Darcy Cunningham, Debbie Grover, Lisa Belanger, Jill Kaechele, Nicole Hewes

1. Call to Order: 7:03 PM
2. Open Public Hearing on Review of Remote Meeting Policy
  - a. No resident attendees, no comments
  - b. Vote to accept the Remote Meeting Policy - Scott moved, Lisa seconded. Passed unanimously.
3. Approval/Amendment of Minutes
  - a. December minutes approved unanimously
4. New Business
  - a. Discussion around format of Recycling Fair Event
    - i. Laurie asked the group to consider the scope of the fair given the potential COVID impact on an April (likely indoor) event. She mentioned a couple of possible alternatives:
      1. Change the date to coincide with the NY town clean-up day in June
      2. Hold mini-recycling events to go along with other town events, such as summer concerts, family movie nights
    - ii. Lisa liked the idea of aligning with the town clean-up day in June and suggested preceding the event with a FreeCycle event, where residents could have a table to offer their unwanted, but still useful, items
    - iii. Darcy summarized that a change in the scope of the event could still meet our primary objectives as a committee.
      1. Provide information about the importance of recycling properly to reduce waste and keep municipal costs down.
      2. Highlight simple, but impactful, individual actions that can add up to a positive and powerful impact at the town/state/global levels.
    - iv. Discussion around having an event that is small, but impactful
      1. Offering event alongside a craft fair with upcycled items
        - a. Make sure that vendors are in alignment with recycling focus and be aware of the downstream impacts of the products we are featuring
      2. Including a component targeted towards children/families
    - v. Possible Booth/Activity Ideas
      1. Garbage to Garden composting
      2. EcoMaine - displays about dos and don'ts for recycling, games
        - a. Lisa will follow up with EcoMaine about their offerings
      3. Allagash Brewing - does recycling of metal caps and plastic PakTech carriers, natural corks, metal cages, caps, brown paper, and bubble wrap

4. Go-Go-Refill
5. Toy and Book Exchange - Jill has facilitated something like this before
6. Wish-recycling - tangible sorting game/activity
7. Glass and aluminum - buyer choices and recycling
8. Jewelry upcycling - glass, paper, etc.
9. Local donation places
  - a. Goodwill
  - b. Salvation Army
  - c. Habitat for Humanity Restore
  - d. Ruth's Reusable Resources
  - e. Freeport Community Thrift Shop

\*Scott will write up a blurb for an upcoming town newsletter to solicit ideas from residents about Recycling Fair events and start to collect a list of creators/vendors for the craft fair

- b. Determination is to push the Recycling Fair/Showcase Event to June or later. Date(s) TBD.
  - i. Committee is also considering aligning with other events in town to provide multiple exposures/meet residents where they are

## 5. Old Business

- a. Fact Sharing for Topic Areas
  - i. **(Plastics & Composting)** Jim sent the following information.
    1. Plastics:
      - a. Up to 12. 7 million tons of plastic enters the oceans every year.
      - b. Only about 9 % of plastics produced since the 1950's has been recycled.
      - c. There are 5,000,000,000 (billion) pieces of plastic in the oceans.
    2. Composting:
      - a. There is evidence that composting has been around since Neolithic Times!
      - b. In 2018 292 million tons of Municipal Solid Waste was collected. 94 million tons were recycled (32%).
      - c. Worms can compost! Check out Vermicomposting.

## 6. Adjournment

- a. Adjournment: 8:08 PM
- b. Next Meeting: Monday, February 7th @ 7:00 PM | Meeting Room at Town Office

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## To-Dos:

1. Follow up with contacts at various organizations to find out what they offer for programming/activities
2. Write up ideas for proposed activities and events on [Recycling Event\(s\) Brainstorming/Notes document](#)
3. Continue to brainstorm additional ideas for Recycling-themed programming