



MANCHESTER BY THE SEA SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes 4/4/2019 7:30 PM Town Hall

Attendees: Alison Anholt-White (chair), Linda Kaplan, Nadia Wetzler, Melissa Flinn, Gary Gilbert, Kyle Khani, Su Mittermaier

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 7:40PM
- 2) Approved of minutes from 1/10/19.
- 3) Welcomed our new members: Nadia Wetzler and Melissa Flinn. Thank you so much for joining us!
- 4) Kyle Khani, local high school junior, joined us to talk about
 - a) surveying high school students about their knowledge of sustainability. He will design a survey and interview students and the wider MBTS population.
 - b) Kyle is involved with UN Youth (check out this cute link to see how you can do your part to making our planet healthier <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/takeaction/>)
 - c) His involvement with Skopje, Macedonia and how they handle sustainable issues
 - d) Helping us with our Facebook page
 - e) Su & Kyle will be the liaisons between the committee and the high school
- 5) Feedback on Wasted potluck – overall a success, attendance exceeded our expectations, the community was very grateful to meet the Green Team, each other and learn about evolving recycling practices. Thank you so much to Gary Gilbert for making (and now updating) our recycling board. The middle-schoolers skit was hilarious and effective. “Wasted,” the documentary, was hard hitting and well done. Again, appreciated by the attendees.
- 6) Composting update
 - a) We are posting flyers on all bins to encourage those already composting to “tell a friend”
 - b) We are posting a banner at Richdale’s with the same information
 - c) Eli Boling and the Selectmen and Black Earth want to start tracking users.
 - d) We currently enjoy 20% participation in town. Our goal is to increase this to 50% (1350 households). The 20% participation already saves is \$10,000+ per annum.
- 7) Recycling update
 - a) The rules have changed again! Gary is updating his board to showcase the 4 items that are recyclable and several of the ones that are not
 - b) Kay Mol at the DPW will update this on the town website and we’ll ripple this out via social media
 - c) Alison will visit the MRF in Billerica with Waste Management and Kay Mol during an audit of our recycling on Thursday, April 11
 - d) Melissa Flinn will contact Cheryl at Parks and Rec to see if we can improve recycling options in the parks and at the beach. Additionally, Nadia Wetzler agreed to contact Bruce Warren to ask the same for the Laughing Gull.

- 8) Cape Ann Community Foundation Grant: Su is working on this in case we need a stop-gap solution for funds to educate and communicate our messages (speakers, future “dinner and a movie” potlucks, etc.)
- 9) Future events
 - a) Thursday, May 9 at 7PM, Beth Porter, author of Reuse, Recycle, Reimagine: Sorting Out the Recycling System, will speak at the MBTS library.
 - b) In June, we’d like to have an event at the Community Center. Perhaps a Round Table discussion or a panel with questions and answers
 - c) In the fall, let’s do another dinner and a movie potluck. Perhaps the film could be about the trouble with plastics (<https://www.newday.com/film/bag-it>). Or Pixar’s Wally.
- 10) One issue signage for prominent display around town: do not put plastic bags in your recycling
- 11) Other suggestions for us to tackle/research that needs to be done:
 - a) Changing our municipal trash bags to bioplastic
 - b) Prohibit single use plastic water bottles
 - c) Replicate Gary’s board for other locations around town, like Crosby’s or at the elementary and high school
 - d) Nadia will try to review the Waste Management contract, if available for our eyes.
 - e) What are other great ideas for us to replicate? Burning our trash and using the energy to heat homes? Check out what they’re doing in Copenhagen.
 - f) What does the Welcome Committee do? How can we get them to help inform new residents about reducing, reusing and recycling?

Next meeting date: Thursday, May 2 at 7:30PM in Town Hall.

On April 9, 2019, Kay Mol of Manchester DPW answered a plethora of the questions raised at our meeting. Thank you, Kay, for your input!

The Town sends all its trash to Wheelabrator, North Andover to be burned, it is then put in an 'ash-fill' – energy generated by the high heat of the burn process is sourced but I don't have more information than that. Wheelabrator's contact is: (978) 688-9011 and <https://www.wtienergy.com/plant-locations/energy-from-waste/wheelabrator-north-andover>

On average we generate about 70 tons of trash each month and that costs the town just under \$5000 each month to burn/process our trash. Bio degradable municipal bags would therefore not be worth it, they are burned.

Waste management's curbside trash/recycle contract [was provided to the Sustainability Committee].

Waste Management is simply our hauler for trash, but they are our hauler AND processor for recyclables – all our recycles go to the WM MRF in Billerica. We are currently spending about \$4500 per month on recycling costs, we generate about 50-70 tons of recyclables each month – overall our split has fallen in the last few months from an almost 50/50 trash/recycle ratio to around 55% trash/45% recycle, one month was 60/40%. Curbside hauling for both trash and recycle is about \$22K per month.

We also have other trash and recycle costs: all the dumpsters around Town; at Singing beach, Masco park, Sweeney Park, Tuck's Point, Town Hall/library - that WM haul under separate contracts. The trash and recycle and all the other disposables that go to the Transfer Station are all separate contracts, the two compactors are with WM but appliances, metal, refrigerants, electronics are all with other companies with processing costs. All the small trash and recycle bins that are on our streets that DPW go around town emptying twice a week out of season/3 times in season. I think there was a question about recycling at the beach. In the winter we have to pull the recycle dumpster as people use it to illegally dump not just trash but bulk items. Recycle dumpsters come back in May to the beaches. I would love to see the concession stand workers be more proactive about recycling. I would actually like to see a carry in/carry our policy...

Also attached is the latest recycle flyer for accepted items. This is the universal list direct from DEP ~~HOWEVER—note they include Aluminum Foil as acceptable but WM said it is not. I have asked WM to confirm not just this second but for the next few months what the rules will be, so we can put out a flyer that will be accurate for at least a few months.~~ Aluminum foil is accepted.

WM are undertaking audits of our recycle stream. The first is happening this week and there will be another in August. For WM this is the basis of our processing fee, for DPW it's then a balancing finances act, for our residents it's an opportunity to learn how we can be cleaner, greener, help save the environment and save dollars.

I have the latest (I believe) Welcome Committee booklet, is the Welcome Committee still active?? I had hopes when I first started working here, of re-inventing the Welcome booklet – it's very out of date – but then reality hit of how busy I am with day to day stuff so...

On April 6, 2019, Andrew of Black Earth commented on the draft meeting minutes. Thank you, Andrew, for your input!

Hi all, sorry I could not attend, compost season is in full swing and I need to keep my focus there. I plan to attend next meeting. Thank you for sending the minutes. I see this new reduction in recycling options as a great thing. It is bringing to light the realities of our recycling infrastructure in society. This allows all the actors (residents, businesses, municipalities, waste management professionals, etc) to make decisions and act in a more useful manner. Before, when we thought we could recycle any plastic, we had no concern about buying and supplying items packaged in any ol' plastic. Now we see the reality.

I think this is a great inflection point in our nation's recycling ethos. I hope this leads to...

...consumer-level awareness of the wastefulness of the packaging that houses our consumer food and products. Hopefully it is a shock when residents look into their trash and see all the plastic that they used to recycle.

...switch to compostable alternatives for many of this packaging... single use coffee cups, togo containers, straws, any single use container that touches food.









...for the rest of the non-recyclable packaging... a switch to packaging that is recyclable in the residential curbside bin, or packaging that has low impact from production to incineration.

I think any effort you are discussing about educating Manchester residents about the new recycling list should be coupled with a list of compostable alternatives and how they can use their green bin. Having the town wide composting service is a major hurdle for any town to take. Manchester has already taken it; the composting infrastructure is there. Next step is get people to fully utilize it.

Potential action points from: Any communication about what is no longer recyclable and what still is, should be coupled with compostable alternatives. We are working on making compostable alternatives available at wholesale prices to grocery stores, markets, etc. If Dunkin Donuts coffee cups are no longer recyclable, they should have a sticker affixed to them that says 'This is trash, please do Not recycle in Manchester.' Town wide ban on non-recyclable non-compostable 'to go containers' from restaurants and grocers; these are likely ending up in the recycle bin or trash; neither of these scenarios are helping the town's waste disposal costs.

Our updated recycling sheet:

Massachusetts Universal Recycling List

	Yes	No
  Aluminum and Tin Cans <small>empty and rinse</small>	Aluminum Cans & Bottles Tin Cans Aluminum Foil Foil Containers (trays, pie tins)	Aerosol Containers Scrap Metal Pots & Pans Paint Cans Canisters (i.e. Pringles, nuts, raisins) Yogurt container foil tops
	Yes	No
  Bottles and Jars <small>empty and rinse</small>	Food & Beverage Bottled & Jars	Drinking Glasses Ceramic Mugs, Dishes Window Glass
	Yes	No
  Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, Cardboard <small>emptied and flattened</small>	Office Paper & File Folders Paper Bags Newspaper Phonebooks, Paperback Books Magazines & Catalogues Corrugated Cardboard Boxboard (dry food boxes) Junk Mail & Paper Envelopes Clean Pizza Boxes Paper Egg Cartons Paper Towel/Toilet Paper Rolls	Food and Beverage Cartons Cold Cups (i.e. soft drink) Hot Cups (i.e. coffee) Shredded Paper Take-Out Containers Ice Cream Containers Tissue Paper/Napkins Gift Wrap/Bags Spiral Wound Workbook Tyvek Envelops Plastic Padded Envelopes Frozen Food Boxes
	Yes	No
  Kitchen, Laundry, Bath <small>empty and replace cap</small>	Plastic bottles, jars, tubs and lids Clear plastic egg carton	Clear clamshell containers Black plastic (i.e. take out trays) Single-use coffee containers Plastic Bags Plastic Film & Wrap Plastic Plates, Bowls & Utensils Foam cups, containers & peanuts Flower pots Crates Buckets Prescription Bottles & medical containers Nips