

## MANCHESTER BY THE SEA SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

*Approved 9/5/2019*

Meeting Minutes 7/14/2019 7:30 PM Town Hall

Attendees: Alison Anholt-White (chair), Melissa Flinn, Dana Spang Menon, Carley Cooke, Su Mittermaier, Andrew Brousseau (Black Earth Composting)

Absent: Kyle Khani, Allison St. Marie, Gary Gilbert

1) Approved minutes from 6/13/2019, Melissa moves to approve minutes, Dana seconds. Minutes approved.

2) Discussion with Andrew about how plastics are separated from the compost.

3) Sustainability Fair:

- TownGreen held their sustainability event last year. They will do one every 2 years - the next one will be in 2020.
- Alison suggests clarifying what our event's focus is, what's manageable, what to have in the way of speakers, program, etc.
- The available date that's emerged from the community center is November 2nd, 9am-1pm.
- Carley adds that two months later the Town's 375th Anniversary events will begin, and the town event calendar will start to fill up.
- Andrew has a lot of compostable picnic ware that we could use for this event, or others.
- Committee members will divide up contacts to reach out to for the fair.
- Fix it cafe
- Contact local businesses to see if they want to come or if they would consider supporting the event (financially or with other donation).
- Instead of providing an actual collection point for non-household recyclables, provide information on where/when to recycle non-curb-side items.
- Participant ideas: Backyard Growers; Local CSAs (Cedar Rock Farms, Alprilla Farms, Cape Ann Farmers Market - Andrew will contact); Utopia Farms (Su will contact); composting - examples of serve-ware that are compostable instead of plastic, info on what you can compost; recycling info
- Have "ask the expert" at each booth

4) Update on recycling dos/don'ts - There is still a lot of confusion about what can and cannot be recycled now. This was even present at the tour of Waste Management. The hand out that we currently have is straight forward, but does clearly show that what is being accepted for recycling in Massachusetts is much more limited than it used to be. Andrew clarifies that there's still a market for recycled clean paper and cardboard, tin, aluminum, and glass. Some companies, like Preserve, do recycle used plastic into new plastic materials. Recycling, while somewhat changed, is still the right thing to do with plastics, metals, paper/cardboard. The key is to encourage less consumption of plastics in the first place - using compostable or reusable/durable materials.

5) How can we encourage town businesses to use completely compostable take-out containers and utensils?

6) Can we start a swap shop/ take it or leave it at the dump? Alison will talk to Kay and Greg about it

7) Encourage more local businesses to compost - how to do this?

8) Hand out compost bins and flyers and updated recycling hand outs at music in the park, and at the sustainability fair

9) Crosby's, Allen's, Richdales, etc - can they carry compostable serve-ware (plates, cups, bowls, silverware)? Alison will talk to Crosby's

10) work with Manchester 375th events

11) Community Gardens - identify potential locations, talk with Backyard Growers for tips, maybe look for an Eagle Scout who would be interested in taking this on? Location ideas to explore: the old skate park, the high school, a site

convenient to seniors - where?, centrally located in the village?. Sites need some parking/loading space and water service.

12) planning publicity for sustainability fair: flyers, posters, facebook, partners to help support the sustainability fair

13) We should try to get firm numbers on how composting has increased with ramped up communications efforts so far

14) There will be no August meeting, but committee members should check in by email and on the shared planning document to assess progress with planning the sustainability fair.

15) We did not get Cape Ann grant.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

Next meeting date: September 5th at 7:30 PM, Town Hall.