



Recycling Sustainability Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, May 21st, 2019

5:30pm

Hudson Town Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Committee members: Steven Sharek (chair) Michael Delfino (vice chair), Sean Frey, Jacqueline Gillis, Jillian Jagling, Fred Lucy II, Kathryn Nardozza

New business

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 5:37pm. Committee members present were: Steven Sharek, Jacqueline Gillis, Jillian Jagling, Fred Lucy, and Kathryn Nardozza. Also present was Kelli Calo (Director of Public and Community Health), Irene Congdon (MassDEP rep), Christie Vaillancourt (Board of Health), and John Melillo (resident).
- 2. Approval of Minutes of April 23rd, 2019:** Jillian Jagling motioned to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jacqueline Gillis. All in favor 5-0.
- 3. Update on Webpage and External Communications:** Kelli Calo informed the RSC that the website and Facebook are both up and running. The Facebook page is named "Sustainable Hudson". Kathryn Nardozza volunteered to be an admin with Kelli Calo and Sean Frey. Sean Frey and Kelli Calo will be purchasing the domain name "sustainablehudson.org" for the website which will link individuals who visit that site back to the Health Department's page. The Health Department's website currently links back to the Town webpage for meeting minutes and agendas, and has information about Recycle Smart MA. Fred Lucy suggested putting the Recycling Sustainability Committee in the "Popular Pages" section on the Town website. Kelli Calo will talk to the IT Department on the feasibility of this.
- 4. Review of Legal Issues and Billing System:** Steve Sharek and Kelli Calo met with Executive Assistant, Tom Moses about when the RSC should involve Town Counsel and options for billing for the curbside pick-up program. Billing can be done either through the Hudson Light and Power (monthly) or the Water bills (quarterly). Trash, in

Massachusetts, is exempt from M.G.L. Chapter 30B. Kelli Calo mentioned that Town Counsel does not need to be involved at this stage.

- 5. Discuss and Decision-Making:** The Committee reviewed and discussed a list of questions prepared by the chair and Ms. Calo. While it took no formal votes, the Committee came to unanimous consensus on most issues. Among other things, the Committee agreed to recommend the start of a curbside trash and recycling pickup program in the Town of Hudson. Members agreed the program should be entirely voluntary, with homeowners being allowed to “opt-in” to the program by a deadline to be determined. They agreed that the program should be funded by user fees. They agreed to recommend that the Hudson Board of Health redraft its regulations to encourage recycling by individual town residents by adopting the Commonwealth’s waste ban laws. Members agreed that the town transfer station remain open, regardless of whether the Town of Hudson implements such a curbside trash and recycling pickup program. They agreed that the curbside pickup program should initially be limited to living structures of no more than three (3) families, with the Board of Health having the authority to open it to larger multi-family units under special circumstances. Members agreed it should not be open to commercial properties. They recommend a weekly pickup of both trash and recycling materials. They agreed to hold off a recommendation on whether to require collection on particular days of the week or leave the decisions up to the hauler, pending discussions with haulers. They deferred making a recommendation on the size of the trash and recycling carts until after a public hearing. They also deferred making a recommendation on the maximum initial annual cost of the program to individual town residents until meeting with haulers. However, they agreed it should be a “fixed barrel/fixed cart” fee. Residents should not be required to purchase special Town of Hudson trash disposal bags if the amount of their trash exceeds the size of the cart provided, as the transfer station will be open in the case of an overflow. At the inception of the program, they agreed that there should be no special discounts for any individuals or groups. Four members agreed that billing should be handled by Hudson Power and Light, while member Fred Lucy II said it should be handled by the hauler. Members agreed that the hauler should be selected through talks with haulers, not through a formal Request for Proposals (RFP), and that all Committee members should take part in the meetings. Members agreed that the hauler should not be required to collect bulky household items as part of the program. Instead, they favored simply continuing to accept such items at the transfer station. They agreed that the selected hauler must collect trash and recyclables in split trucks or in separate trucks. Members noted that they could not calculate how much state grant money can be expected until a decision is made on the size of the trash and recycling carts. They agreed that an

initial public hearing will be held on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hudson Police Station, pending availability (*Note: The hearing was later moved to Tuesday, June 18th, 2019 at 6:30pm.*). Members agreed not to hold a visiting trip to the existing town transfer station or to a curbside pick-up program elsewhere in the state. The Committee agreed that an education program is needed to encourage Hudson residents to recycle. Members agreed that rules and regulations will be needed to implement the program. Among other things, the rules should include a limitation on the number of hours that carts are on the street and delineate what days of the week the program will operate.

During the discussion, the Committee was informed that the Hudson Board of Health recently voted to keep open the town transfer station, regardless of whether the Town implements a curbside recycling and trash collection program.

6. **Discussion of Public Hearing:** The RSC discussed having two public hearings. The first public hearing to be held in the end of June and the second August/September. The purpose of the public hearing is to inform the public what the Recycling Sustainability Committee is, where they are in their decision making, and to gather public input. Kelli Calo mentioned three possible locations: Hudson Police Department Conference Room, Town Hall Auditorium, or the Hudson High School Auditorium. Ms. Calo suggested the HPD Conference room due to the new technology and better acoustics. The RSC discussed the need to have sample cart sizes at the public forum for public input. Irene Congdon agreed to bring the samples. In-depth planning of the public forum will occur at the next RSC meeting on June 4th. The RSC tentatively scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, June 19th, 2019 at 6:30pm at the Hudson Police Station, subject to availability of the conference room. (*Note: The hearing was later moved to Tuesday, June 18th, 2019 at 6:30pm.*)

Public Forum Agenda Items: introduction to RSC, survey results, carts, education, Q&A.

7. **Next Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, June 4th, 2019 at 5:30pm
8. **Adjournment:** A motion was made and duly seconded to adjourn at 7:47pm.