

GROTON RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday February 7, 2019 @ 7:00 pm
Town Hall Small Meeting Room, 1st floor

Welcome:

- Attendance: Tessa David, Jamie King, Nancy Ohringer, Val Prest
- Meeting was opened at 7:08 pm.

Review prior meeting minutes:

- December meeting minutes accepted as amended.
- January 10, 2019 meeting minutes moved, seconded and accepted unanimously.

Review Updated Transfer Station Descriptive Material

- Val's Organic Waste writeup transferred to Tessa for final revisions.
- Changes to individual descriptions were discussed and made if found necessary.
- Final writeups will be made, compiled and sent to personnel at Transfer Station for further review.
- The new map of the Recycle Station was reviewed and accepted without change.

Brainstorm Clean Recycling Practices:

- Cleanliness of waste products was discussed.
- All types of containers suitable for recycling must be clean so that companies who pick them up from our station will accept them.
- All that are not clean must be collected and disposed of as trash.

Discuss Transfer Station Plastic Cap recovery possibilities:

- No caps are allowed on any glass, plastic, metal or other containers.
- Provide separate drums for collection of caps that cannot be polluted by insertion of other wastes.

Jamie's Proposed Recycling Actions:

- Eliminate or reduce single-use, plastic items such as straws, plates, cups, dinnerware, etc. that do not decompose.
- Plastic bags is another item but some single-use bags such as those used for disposal at the Recycle Center have to be excused from elimination.
- John Giger was expected to attend this meeting to discuss elimination of single use plastic bags but did not come. See pertinent item below for more details.

Update on School Recycling:

- Nancy Ohringer discussed problems she sees with current, newer trash collections done at Groton's district schools. Tipping fees are greater than costs of previous collection method which also had more focus on recycling than current method.

John Giger proposal for encouraging use of reusable bags and banning of single-use plastic bags in Groton:

- Tessa came prepared with information to give John including the attachment to these minutes.
- Single-use out, reusable in. Consider fees for new bag-use at stores to encourage people to bring their own bags.

Action Items:

- Feedback from IT - New Groton Website coming.

Future Items:

- Develop and promote reduction, reuse and recycling practices for the general population.
- Put on programs for this very purpose using various venues.
- Create and hang a huge banner above and across Main Street in downtown Groton. Get Tom Delaney's input.
- Review our Mission Statement that is about 10 years old and update it.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Recorded by Val Prest and reviewed by Tessa David