

GROTON RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes - Thursday, August 12, 2021 @ 7:00 PM
Held at the small meeting room in Town Hall

Attendees: Tessa David, Diana Keaney, Val Prest in the meeting room plus Jamie King via telephone

Meeting opened at 7:10 PM

WELCOME:

Meeting minutes of June 10, 2021 were unanimously accepted as written.

Review of Transfer Station plastic's Bay #2 sign and any other suggested signs:

- Val spoke to Keith while at the Transfer Station on Saturday August 7th. Keith was working in that #2 Bay. He said the sign has not stopped people from messing up the bay with other types of plastic bottles. Keith even said that #2 plastic bottles were mixed in with #3 through 7 plastic bottles.
- Because signs are not fully solving the problem of residents placing the wrong types of plastics in our bays, Val suggested that we (the committee) invent and patent an electronic-mechanical method that can identify then sort the various types of plastics and transport them to their respective bays. That way all plastics could be dumped in one location and the machinery would do the sorting.
 - Optical scanners are currently used but cannot identify all 7 types of plastics
 - Mechanical sorters and transport mechanisms need to be designed.
 - Paying for initial costs and continuing maintenance is always needed.
 - Patenting the design and selling it to other Towns & Cities would help defray costs.
 - Diana and Tessa suggested contacting the UMass Lowell's research lab.
- The Bay containing dead batteries was discussed because Val & Jamie had visited that bay together and took photos of conditions and batteries. We found a large number of different types of batteries there, some of which were not fully identifiable. We forgot to distribute our photos and findings.
 - Diana suggested we instal signage that restricts what can be disposed of, ie, **NO ALKALINE BATTERIES ALLOWED.**

Update on approach/drive by sign plans: Nothing new discussed.

Update on Recycling Committee Tips in the Herald:

- With Nancy Ohringer temporarily disabled, she and Diana have not been able to coordinate and proceed since the last meeting.

Update on Transfer Station and Town-wide Food waste collection:

- Black Earth has succeeded in winning a grant to build additional processing facilities onsite.
- Nearby homeowners are objecting to the collecting and recycling food scraps by Black Earth because of their fear of and opposition to offensive odors.

GROTONFEST PLANS:

- GrotonFest is scheduled for Saturday, September 25, 2021 from 10 AM to 4 PM.
- On the day before, Tessa and Val are to move our equipment from Deven's trailer to a room on the site of GrotonFest. Val will also help setup our booth on Saturday.
- Tessa will send out an email that will request times from each of us to staff shifts.

GROTONFEST PLANS (Cont.):

- Diana suggested that we create a Raffle to gain the attention of our residents. It would focus on Food Scrap Collection and maybe recycling in general.
 - It's setup would be co-created with Black Earth.
 - Prizes, like recycle buckets, would include a Black Earth brochure or card in it.
 - In the past food scraps have been dumped into trash bags and thrown away at the Transfer Station which costs residents money to buy the orange bags. Now residents can have food waste picked up at minimal cost or take it to the transfer station and drop it off at no cost.
- Diana will investigate how, what and where the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts can help out at GrotonFest and where their booths will be.

Other items to share - Only the discussion above, about batteries, was shared.

Meeting adjourned: 8:20 PM

Next meeting to be on the standard 2nd Thursday of the month. Therefore the next one is September 9th at 7:00 PM..

Gracefully submitted by Val Prest