

Minutes of Groton Recycling Committee December 9, 2021 at Townhall

Attendees: Jamie King, Tessa David, Nancy Ohringer, Val Prest (recording minutes) and a guest, Kelly Sinclair. Diana Keaney was not able to attend.

Meeting started: 7:15 pm

WELCOME:

Minutes of November 11, 2021 approved unanimously.

Tessa brought in and handed out signs for yard-advertising Black Earth' Food Scrap Collection.

Nancy spoke with our guest by filling her in with the history of recycling and composting in our town's schools. Then Tessa and Nancy spoke to our guest to explain what Black Earth was doing and about their being at our Transfer Station and their use of various collection methods.

Because this is the last meeting for Val, as he is leaving the committee, Jamie nominated Nancy to be the replacement member on the committee. Val seconded the nomination and all members voted in favor of it. Val got lots of approvals for his time and work on the committee.

Jamie, who is now retired, spoke about his visits to the Transfer Station and his latest work of helping to sort the plastic contents that residents have placed in Bay #2. He also spoke about a bay at the Transfer Station that is some distance away from the other plastic recycling bays and that it should be relocated so as to be adjacent to them. That bay is dedicated to collection of one-gallon and larger plastic containers.

Battery Sorting and recycling: Jamie discussed the need for signage and container improvements to help explain and simplify disposal of a large variety of batteries including those that should be thrown into common trash as not recyclable. To those ends, Jamie is contemplating what signs and containers would be best suited to the needs of that battery collection bay. He will come up with a design in the near future.

Drive By Signage: Val has asked Tom for a date to meet with him but had not received an answer. Val forgot to pursue that effort before this meeting. If in the future, the committee decides to further pursue that signage, Val would be happy to design the needed support system at no charge.

Tips in the Groton Herald: No change. Still trying to communicate with the newspaper.

Transfer Station and Black Earth: Tessa was told by somebody at Black Earth that GrotonFest was a great advertising event for them. For the sake of our guest there was now more discussion about Black Earth obtaining a grant that allowed them to add more to their facility at our Transfer Station. It was also mentioned that garden and food waste can be brought to the Transfer Station and that a pile of composted soil can be picked up for free, if you have a shovel and container to put it into.

Update on School Waste: Nancy spoke some more about recycling and composting waste products having been restarted at our schools. It had been shut down when Covid 19 broke out. The schools went onto single-stream pickups but efforts are now underway to restart recycling and hopefully composting, too. If schools do recycling they can obtain state funding. If they do not then funds are not available.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has waste bans that limit the amount of food waste that can go into the trash. Since October 1, 2014, MassDEP has banned the disposal of commercial organic/food waste by businesses and institutions that exceed 2000 pounds or more. Beginning 11/1/2022 that amount will go down to 1000 pounds.

The committee unanimously approved our next meeting will be 2-10-2022. There will be no January meeting.

Further discussion ensued with Kelly, our guest, about recycling and our committee. Then Val motioned for adjournment. That was accepted by all.

Meeting adjourned: 8:25 pm