

COMMITTEE ACTION – BY VOTE OR CONSENSUS

February 26th meeting minutes approved.

The Committee approved subsuming the RRMC within a new sustainability committee and will give feedback to Paul Bockelman about a proposed charter for the committee.

DISCUSSION

Transitioning to Sustainability Committee:

An umbrella group could continue RRMC initiatives as task forces. This umbrella approach is a successful model in other communities for building more support and momentum. In addition to solid waste, a sustainability committee could focus on zero energy town buildings, helping grow farm food on protected town land, purchasing municipal vehicles and overall reducing carbon footprint/greenhouse gas emissions. The sustainability “master plan” would build upon the Solid Waste Master Plan and Climate Action Plan. The sustainability committee would also have dedicated staff support from Stephanie Ciccarello, Sustainability Coordinator.

Based on the recent vote to become a town council, the town council may consist of subcommittees, such as a sustainability sub-committee, which may also contribute to sustainability initiatives. The work of the RRMC will be subsumed under the sustainability committee. Members of the RRMC will need to apply to the Town if they are interested in joining the new committee. Paul Bockelman will make decisions about appointing members from the applicant pool.

Task Forces:

Restaurant Composting: Andrew, an employee previously at Top Kebab, composted all food waste there in compliance with BOH inspections.

Textile Recycling in Schools:

Baystate Textiles is meeting with all the PGO’s in early April, and textiles would be collected in front of elementary schools if PGO’s approve.

April 14th Amherst Sustainability Festival:

Mimi will be posted at the table although she will need to leave around 2 pm. Sue, Marian, Sara, Brenda will be there all day. Setup and breakdown will also take a while.

Zero Waste Public Education Campaign:

Catherine Ratté and Patrick Beaudry from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission may be available for assistance. Patrick Beaudry inquired about whether the RRMC was publishing a monthly zero waste article in the Hampshire Gazette, which we have not been doing. However, Susan Waite and Mimi Kaplan are already trading off writing monthly articles for the Gazette.

Western MA Municipal Assistance Coordinator:

Veronique Blanchard, in her role as Western MA Municipal Assistance Coordinator (MAC), informed us that DEP funding may be available for a zero waste campaign. Veronique is compiling reuse, repair and zero waste resources, such as the reuse center in Pittsfield to help people replicate best practices locally. She proposed the possibility of organizing a Zero Waste summit in Western Massachusetts.

The Western MA Green Consortium is another local organization to keep in mind for partnerships.

The Taste of Amherst (June 14-17), organized by the Amherst Chamber of Commerce, will be looking for compost volunteers again.

Recycling Update: Mimi Kaplan has begun stickering dumpsters with more informative recycling signs. Mimi will investigate whether haulers would charge less for contracting for every other week or once a month.

ADJOURNMENT Voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:00 P.M.

SUBMITTED BY Sara Brown