

Minutes of RASWAC Meeting-January 8, 2018 Town Hall Room A: 8:30am

Members Present: Co-chairs-Jill Talladay and Carol Ewing; Members-Charlie Spooner, Abbi Santos, Deb Stetson and Mary Vilbon. Also in attendance: Tara Monroe, Roby Whitehouse and George Finn, a concerned citizen from Captains Village. Mr. George Finn worked in the packaging industry for over 40 years and expressed concern and dismay about recycling that packaging.

Minutes of Meeting:

Minutes of the December 11, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

Polystyrene: Mary Vilbon will draft a survey for businesses/food establishments in order to figure out how many are still using polystyrene and how willing are the businesses to switch to compostable or non-polystyrene. In Western MA, specifically the village of Shelburne Falls, what worked very well for businesses when this survey went out was there were incentives (prizes and recognition) for each establishment to give up polystyrene and go with compostable materials. The program was very successful as the businesses were able to use this Survey program as a marketing tool. Each business that gave up polystyrene and switched to compostable materials, depending on their commitment and sustainability, were able to use the recognition as marketing within their establishments to brag about it. IE, coming in #1, 2, 3 etc. depending on each establishment's commitment and actions. The Committee thought that was great and encouraged Mary to draft the survey, which will be reviewed at the next RASWAC meeting. RASWAC will request to go before the Board of Health regarding polystyrene.

CARE for the Cape and Islands held a Summit on Plastic Pollution and Litter November 1st at the CC Museum of Natural History in partnership with the Center for Coastal Studies and CC Anti-Litter Coalition. Working Groups are being formed to address key issues identified that include cooperative purchasing of environmentally-friendly products for businesses, coordinating cleanups and universal messaging to educate the public toward behavior change. A second Summit is being planned for March.

Discussed Topics for Future Register Articles:

1. Dos and Don'ts for recycling: don'ts are so varied and challenging due to the ever-changing recycling rules. Per Roby, rigid plastics (ie, milk crates, shredded

paper, garden hoses and child swimming pools) are definite no's! Dos will work better for newspaper publication for now. However, we will work on Don'ts list for newspaper going forward.

2. Consumer awareness on takeout containers: Bottoms of plastic containers are not recyclable but lids are. It's up to each consumer of takeout to ask the establishment what their takeout container is going to be and make choices accordingly, educating restaurant on the reason individual wants takeout containers in compostable and/or recyclable containers. NO plastic bags for takeout purchase!
3. Coupon books for rubbish disposal: taxpayers may purchase a \$100 coupon book, which entitles them to 10 visits to the Disposal Area, 5 bags of trash maximum and unlimited recycling per visit/coupon. There may be a fee increase, thoughts should be proposed very soon in order to go before the Board of Selectmen in September. Tires are always challenging and Roby will check with other towns to see what their pricing is as far as disposal goes in order to see how Yarmouth's minimal cost compares.

Regarding these topics, Deb Stetson will be writing the third Register Column on the Do's of recycling and may mention the top 5 Don'ts. Article will be published February 7, 2019. Carol Ewing will write the fourth Register Column, topic to be Reducing trash and alternatives for garbage disposal for March 7 publication.

Other Business:

Roby and Kari Parcell were invited to attend a DY School meeting with all principals regarding recycling, which is currently not being done in the schools. Linen/clothing bins for recycling are set up at the schools, per Kari. They are collected on a weekly basis and depending on the weight of each, the schools will each receive a very small stipend because the Company that provides the bins is a for-profit company that agreed to do this with the Town.

There will be an insert in each homeowner's water bill notifying them of the April 1 due date for not only the Disposal sticker, but the Recycling sticker and all pertinent information as well.

Roby updated the Committee on trees and brush disposal. S & J Exco or Robert Childs take it all. Yarmouth is looking into getting a chipper, which will be expensive but the initial cost easily could be outweighed by the benefits and eventually save money for the Town. A qualified employee would need to be in charge of the operation and we don't have one at this time.

Roby's next Recycling informational meeting is scheduled for 1-11-19 at the Yarmouth Senior Center. All are welcome.

Any and all ideas for the Town of Yarmouth website are always welcome.

Waste Disposal Update:

- \$90 per ton for comingled recycled items cost to TOY
- \$45 per ton for mixed paper recycled items cost to TOY

- \$130 per ton metal rebate for TOY
- \$35 per ton Corrugated cardboard rebate for TOY

There are still issues with people dropping off shredded paper in the mixed paper container, which isn't allowed as it gets caught in and bogs down the equipment.

All Committee members and attendees agreed that the signage at the Disposal Area is wonderful, such a vast improvement to past practice.

Member Charlie Spooner will not be able to attend the February and March RASWAC meetings.

Next meeting date and location: February 12, 2019 at 8:30 AM in Town Hall Room A.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.

DRAFT