



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 10, 2019

7:00 P.M.

Town Hall, 2nd Floor Meeting Room

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
 Rob Darnell, Chair
 Robin Greenberg, Secretary
 Myra Sessions
 Jennifer Kallay
 Suzy Veilleux, School Committee rep
 Addie Festel, Student Liaison
 Cameron Sweeney, Student Liaison
 Liz Sheridan, Student Liaison
 Sophie Brown, Student Liaison

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:
 Mary Hajjar, Vice Chair
 Julie Smith-Galvin, Town Council Rep
 Joe Conway, DPW Rep

----- TOPICS OF DISCUSSION -----

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Public Participation No comments

Approval of Minutes, September 2019 R. Greenberg made motion to accept the revised minutes for meeting, M. Sessions seconded. All approved.

Selection of Student Committee Member The committee received four high school student applications from Addie Festel, Cameron Sweeney, Sophie Brown, and Liz Sheridan. The students shared their backgrounds and their interests in joining the Committee. Cameron is a senior at WHS and is interested in youth involvement in town sustainability. Sophie is interested in expanding the high school recycling program and elsewhere in town. Addie is interested in government and personal sustainable practices. Sophie and Addie involved with WHS Recycling Club and want to provide compost at the school. All applicants were accepted to join ESC as non-voting member representing Wakefield students.

School Programs - Waste, Recycling, Compost, and Gardening Sara Colvin Carpenter, a volunteer at Greenwood Elementary, provided the committee an overview of her programs at the school. She has created a Greenwood Community Garden, a student vegetable garden, with Wakefield Education Foundation grants and Green City Growers providing curriculum. There is also a sensory garden with first and third grade levels curriculum tie in to it with donations via PTO from Wakefield Savings Bank and other businesses. In 2018, she expanded it to all grade access and programming. Vegetables from the garden go to food pantry. The school also has a butterfly garden, pollinator garden, and birdhouses and feeders that are tied to curriculum. One piece of the curriculum is a field trip to a recycling plant.

Families garden and harvest from the vegetable garden during the summer vacation. Sara has arranged Black Earth Compost to come to the school to take garden waste and cafeteria lunch food. Snack food waste is not currently collected. Fourth graders are assigned to manage the recycling. Black Earth Compost collects a 50gal bin once a week. Sarah's goal is to expand program to all elementary schools and for the compost collection schedule be adjusted for Friday's pizza boxes could be collected.

<http://www.greenwoodpto.org/greenwood-community-garden>

The committee talked about the potential for other schools could use the Greenwood as a model for more community gardens and composting efforts. Discussion also included how to reduce lunch waste, i.e. use of utensil dispensers in elementary schools in lieu of packages of utensil bundles and use of compostable trays in lieu of Styrofoam trays.

Andy Bray, a project manager at Northeast Waste Management Officials Association and Wakefield resident, received a grant to study Wakefield Schools' recycling efforts and to provide recommendations for the district to increase recycle. Some of his observations were:

- The majority of recycling is paper and very limited co-mingled mixed goods.
- In the past, paper recycling bins were at some schools which provided a revenue source but the company has stopped servicing them so town had them dumpsters removed.
- There is 10x more trash volume than recycling at the Galvin MS.
- There are different collection contracts at the different schools and therefore different rules. For recycling, Republic collects just paper and cardboard.
- The Town of Wakefield is not current eligible for MA Department of Environmental Protection grants, i.e. MassDEP Recycling IQ Kit which helps town educate people about recycling contamination, because the town has not recently submitted recycling data. Claire Moss is working on collecting and submitting the data to the state.
- Schools' dumpster contracts are expiring soon. They are negotiated separately from the town's residential curbside contract.
- E-waste recycling can be a potential funding source. There is currently one hosted by a WHS sports team once a year. The committee discussed how e-waste collection could be done more frequently like if the WHS Recycling Club hosted one fund composting at WHS and the use of the Yard Pit as a regular collection point. Wellesley was noted as a good model for multi-uses of their Yard Pit.
- The school would benefit from participating the MassDEP The Green Teams, <https://thegreenteam.org/>

The committee discussed how school could reduce generation of waste and other recycling efforts, for example, schools reduce distribution of single use items, paying for TerraCycle (www.terracycle.com) for specialty recycling like Melrose does, and encouraging art programs to use non-recyclable goods in their project.

The committee discuss if Wakefield school merchandise could promote recycling efforts, i.e. metal straws, water bottles/camelbacks.

Andy is advocating to the town and PTOs to fund expanded recycling, including food rescue, and growth of composting.

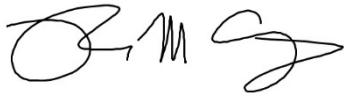
Shyan Ong, a volunteer at Greenwood Elementary School, explained the Greenwood Food Rescue Program that she developed. Since 1996, USDA allows schools to donate unopened and uneaten food to a non-profit or have students take it home. Earlier this year, with approval of WPS and Wakefield Health Department, she has set up a cooler at Greenwood as a collection area for eligible food in the cafeteria. After lunch, the food in the cooler are put into a refrigerator at the school. One to two times a week, the food is taken to food pantries and other groups for distribution. Currently, there has been an average of 200 items per week collected which includes cold items like yogurts. Shyan's goal is to grow the program across the town's schools and to encourage kids to bring the extra food home via a backpack program. Shyan's efforts have been modeled after Wellesley's Food Rescue Network. She continues to do food audits to know how much is rescued.

<http://www.greenwoodpto.org/food-rescue-program>
<https://wellesleyma.gov/1128/Food-Rescue-Network>

Next Meeting The next regular Environmental Sustainability Committee meeting is November 14, 2019, at 7pm at Town Hall.

Committee Meeting Adjournment M. Sessions motioned to adjourn. R. Greenberg seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Greenberg, Secretary

Attachments: Recycle Smart MA poster, Greenwood Community Garden picture (not attached), Andy's slides (not attached)



Food and Beverage Cans

empty and rinse



Bottles, Jars, Jugs and Tubs

empty and replace cap



Bottles and Jars

empty and rinse

**Mixed Paper, Newspaper,
Magazines, Boxes**

empty and flatten

NO!



Do Not Bag Recyclables
No Garbage



**No Plastic Bags
or Plastic Wrap**

(return to retail)



No Food or Liquid

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(empty all containers)
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No Clothing or Linens

(use donation programs)



No Tanglers

(no hoses, wires,
chains or electronics)



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