



MINUTES

Minutes of the Solid Waste Recycling Task Force

April 30, 2024

Present: Sharon Benoit, Ralph Harder, Dave Griswold, Ben Lounsbury, Jane Costlow, Brian Cullen

Correction for Minutes from 4/16/24: Sharon was not present at the meeting.

1. The SWG needs to nominate a new person to the Sustainability and Natural Resources Board (SNRB). The next meeting of SNRB is in July.
2. Discussed the meetings with the City of Biddeford Public Works Director, Jeff Demers.
 - City operates their own garbage collection trucks and has recently moved to automation from manual collection.
 - City had to rewrite parking ordinances for automation collection.
 - Casella does the curbside recycling and takes it to EcoMaine. The city owns the recycling and trash bins.
 - City conducts weekly audits of the recycling which has driven down contamination rate.
 - City emphasizes recycling first over trash disposal. City runs a transfer station for drop off recycling (separated by type), cooking oil, leaves, and food waste.
 - City does public education for recycling.
 - City is moving away from a Pay to Throw requirement for excess trash that doesn't fit within the trash bin.
3. There was agreement that we need to still hear from representatives of Maine Waste to Energy and Agricycle. Ralph and Brian will be responsible for setting up dates with their reps.
4. Discussed the contents and method for writing the final task force report.
 - Executive summary- 1 to 2 pages with bullet points.
 - Longer report written for staff and others with interest.
 - Provide recommendations with rationale and references.
 - Purpose of the report- should it cover all facets of recycling and solid waste hierarchy or be more concise?
 - The report should contain the policy statement to minimize the volume of solid waste and steps/options to accomplish this. Should cover topics- curbside recycling and trash, automation or manual collection, frequency, bins, recycling drop off locations, food waste collection sites, and other viable options to consider by staff.
 - Ideas for drafting- break into small groups to write certain topical sections, one person draft initial report.
 - Audience of the report- public, city council, mayor, and city staff.
 - For public input- idea to hold a public meeting once a draft report is ready.