

Location and time: Westwood Town Hall, 7:30 pm

Members in attendance: Maria Costantini (Chair), Claire Galkowski, Julie Gervais (secretary), Stephen Harte (vice chair), Pam Kane, Kate LaCroix

Others in attendance: Steven Olanoff, Rayna McManus

Routine Business

Approval of minutes. Minutes from meetings of July 12 and August 23 and September 13 were approved.

A WEAC Google Drive has been set up to support document sharing.

Topics Discussed

1. Plastic Bag Bylaw

Presentation from Rayna McManus from the Wellesley Natural Resources

Commission. Rayna shared the Commission's experience with implementing the Wellesley plastic bag ban. Wellesley Natural Resource Commission (WNRC) is a 5-member elected board. Their team included, board of 5 volunteers, 20 bag ban boosters, plus a small part time staff.

What they did:

- Community outreach to test the waters on plastic bag ban
- "Bag It" documentary - invited town officials
- Distributed free reusable bags
- Distributed fact sheets
- Informal surveys of citizens and retailers

Presented to:

- Board of Selectman
- Board of Health
- Advisory Committee (finance)

Got stakeholder support from:

- Mass Audubon
- Mass Sierra Club
- Humane Society
- Wellesley League of Women Voters

They were lobbied by the plastic associations

Once they passed the bylaw, steps for implementation - 5 key points:

- Letter to business owners - timing
- Plastic bag regulations
- Paper bag regulations
- Reusable Bag Regulations
- Enforcement

Students designed a bag. Sold them in stores. Roche brothers paid for the bags and sold them.

Leveraged social media for community outreach and had a “bring your own bag” month.

Created packages for retailers. The kits included:

- Script
- Compliant paper bags
- Sign to hang in the window of stores

Discussion on next steps with a plastic bag bylaw in Westwood:

Attendees discussed the concern that a plastic bag bylaw would increase the use of paper bags as an alternative. The committee would like to recommend that any paper bag alternatives that are made available in stores would be made from post-consumer recycled content. The committee members would like to explore if an 100% recycled content paper bag would be feasible.

Next steps: Members will reach out to the local Westwood groups to gauge support for a plastic bag ban before the end of the year. Groups were assigned.

2. Update from Recycling Efforts at Westwood Day. Recycling seemed to be improved this year, although there are still issues around balloons and that more community education is needed on proper recycling.

Next Steps: Contact the rec department. Need someone on the committee for next year. Goals would be to have no balloons and educate vendors (vendor sheet instructions) about how to recycle cardboard. Another idea was to possibly have a trash and recycling table where trash is sorted by volunteers.

3. Recycling Update from DPW. Sticker on the bins was not approved.

Next Steps: It was suggested that we ask the DPW to put the “Don’t BAG Recyclables” flyer in the next tax bill.

4. Earth Day Cleanup. Hale Reservation - Westwood Community Trails Program has offered to help coordinate the Earth Day clean up in 2019.

Next steps: Steve Harte to connect with Tyler Simpson to determine how we can collaborate.

5. Westwood Recycling Day. It was noted that Westwood Recycling Day is Saturday, October 13.

6. Community Choice Aggregation.

Next Steps: Steve Harte will follow up to see when we will present to the Board of Selectman. It was noted that the town will write the article.

Items for Next Meeting. Look at the bylaw draft, compare to Wellesley and Concord bylaws.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Next meeting will be on the 8^h of November 2018 at 7:30 p.m.