



Town of Plaistow, NH
Trash & Recycling Advisory Committee (TRAC)
145 Main Street, Plaistow, NH 03865

TRAC MINUTES
October 14, 2021

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM

ROLL CALL: Isabel Gautreau, Chair
Robert Kinkaid, Vice Chair
Richard Anthony
Deborah Esparza-St. Louis
Kelley Fox
Maryann Little
Mary Anne LoCascio

Also present: Jay DeRoche, *Selectmen*

Agenda Item 2: Review/Approval September 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

★ M. LoCascio moved, second by M. Little, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2021, meeting as written. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was 7-0-0 U/A

Agenda Item 3: Discussion – Educational Materials to be included with carts when distributed.

It was noted that a budget had been approved for two (2) sheets of paper, printing on both sides, for a total of four (4) pages of information. The information will need to be folded and stuffed into the hanging bags, which have been purchased. It was also noted that it had not yet been determined whether the printing would be done in house or sent out to a printer.

There was a discussion of the timeline for the educational materials to be ready. The carts will be distributed starting the week of December 6, 2021. The Board of Selectmen (BOS) will need to approve the content of the materials before they can be printed and prepared to be distributed.

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting date would be November 11, 2021, which is the Veteran's Day holiday and Town Hall would be closed. There was a consensus that the Committee would meet next on November 10, 2021 and the final drafts will be reviewed at that meeting.

The TRAC reviewed examples of educational materials that were provide by Cascade Cart Solutions (CCS), the vendor for the new carts that will be used for recycling collection.

R. Kinkaid suggested that it be recommended that the information be printed by a professional company as opposed to being done in house.

There was discussion about the resources that were available on the "RecycleSmart" open source website. It was noted that there was a Massachusetts (MA) connection, which may cause confusion, but would be applicable as JRM Hauling (trash/recycling collection vendor) is a MA based company. It was suggested that the website link be provided in the materials.

There was discussion about the semi-automated collection that was part of the new contract with JRM Hauling (JRM). It was noted that there were advantages because we could still have curb-side bulk pick up, and recycling could be checked before picked up and if there was contamination it would not be put in the truck.

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There was discussion about information to be included in the materials:

- Letter from the BOS
- What the new contract means (carts) and why it is being done
- Recycling Calendar
- Recycling Information – what to recycle and what not to
- Recommendation that all trash be bagged to keep the carts cleaner and to prevent trash from blowing away
- Link to RecycleSmart
- Information needs to be quick and convincing
- Direction to the Town Website for Additional Information
- Tips and Hints i.e., compression things like cans and plastic bottles to make more room in the carts
- What's different in trash/recycling collection with the carts

The TRAC selected a four-page example from those provided and decided to assign separate pages to each member to update.

Page 1 – The “Roll Out” page

Page 2 – “We’re On A Roll” with BOS message

Pages 3-4 – FAQs & Recycling Dos & Don’ts

M. Little/R. Anthony

J. DeRoche/M. LoCascio

R. Kinkaid/I. Gautreau

J. DeRoche offered that there should be a press release about the new contract and the carts.

There was discussion regarding proposing a budget for TRAC be included in the 2022 Town Operating Budget. It was suggested that the funds (~\$3,200) that would hopefully be coming from a grant for the recycling carts, could be requested for the TRAC 2022 budget. It was also noted that money would be considered as a reimbursement for monies already spent by the Town in 2021.

J. DeRoche offered that he would speak to the Town Manager about where funds could be included in the budget for TRAC expenses.

All drafts should be ready for the next meeting (November 10). It was suggested that all messages be positive and there should be focus on the cost savings of recycling (\$25/ton) versus trash (\$84/ton) disposal fees.

Agenda Item 4: Old Business

a. Response from JRM to TRAC questions

Answers from JRM were reviewed. It was noted that there are still lingering questions regarding how the recycling that is rejected is accounted for, and concern that it is being double weighed. J. DeRoche offered to contact Peter Gamache (JRM) regarding the question. It was noted that JRM had not been offering tours during the pandemic. It was not known if they were now.

It was noted that in signing the new contract JRM would need to assist the Town in reducing the contamination rate. It was noted that the contract offered an educational field trip for school kids, so it was optimistic that a tour might be available to TRAC.

Agenda Item 5: Action Items – Updates and Review List of Added Items (if any)

a. Additional Educational Materials for Webpage (on-going)

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No additional educational items were presented for review at this meeting.

Agenda Item 6: New Business

R. Kinkaid offered that he has been exploring 1-on-1 recycling partnerships that are funded through a MA grant program. He noted that he was asking if it could be independently done in Plaistow and perhaps teaming up with the Library to offer Q & A programs either in-person or virtually. He noted that he would send the link to the program.

M. Little suggested that JRM should offer such a program to the Town for free.

J. DeRoche offered that when the Town first started curb-side recycling there had been cable programs done.

Agenda Item 7: Recycling and Plastics Beyond Plaistow (on-going)

R. Anthony offered that he has sent an article about a program on Cape Cod. It will be distributed to the members via email. He offered an overview of the content and how the Cape was dealing with single-serve, single-use plastic bottles and bags.

There was discussion about other states (Maine) and communities (Haverhill, MA) that had either limited or banned certain plastics, but little information was available as to how they programs had been started or the process to implement them.

It was also discussed that had been State legislation proposed at one point, but it wasn't clear what the status of that currently is. It was again suggested that State Representatives (Robert Harb, Norman Major) be contacted to find the person in the Legislature who is the leader on environmental issues and see if they can be a resource.

There was discussion about seeing if other towns would like to work with Plaistow on a regional effort to reduce plastic waste. It was also noted that a first step would be to see if the BOS had an interest in pursuing measures that would reduce plastics use. It was suggested that BOS support may be unlikely.

J. DeRoche offered that the level of BOS support would likely depend on the information that is made available to them.

Along with how to start and implement banning single-use plastics, there was a discussion regarding how it could be enforced. It was noted that enforcement would need to be clearly addressed as part of any ordinance that would ban/restrict single-use plastics.

There was discussion about how pre-pandemic Market Basket used to offer cardboard boxes at the grocery checkout. It was questioned if that policy might be brought back.

Action Items:

R. Anthony offered to contact the Cape and see if there was more information available on implementation

R. Kinkaid offered to contact Market Basket regarding offering the cardboard boxes again

M. Little offered to research the status of New Hampshire Legislation on banning/restricting plastics.

M. Little, R. Anthony, J. DeRoche, M. LoCascio, R. Kinkaid, I. Gautreau – Educational Flyer materials for cart distribution

There was no additional business before the committee and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dee Voss
Administrative Assistant