

**CITY OF BEVERLY
WASTE REDUCTION COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Beverly Public Library, Sohler Room, 32 Essex Street

Call to order: 6:30 p.m.

Committee members present: Sandy Burgess, Bonnie Dean, Nancy Dillon, Susan Higgins, John Swain, Lisa Willwerth, Amy Henderson (Chair)

Committee members absent: Joyce Herman

Invited participants and guests: Erina Keefe (City of Beverly), Hugh Howard

Review minutes for January 5, 2023 and February 2, 2023 meetings – VOTE to approve

Henderson shared typo for January; Higgins moved to approve the January 5, 2022 minutes as amended and the February 2, 2023 minutes; Dillon seconded. The motion carried (7-0).

Administrative Business

Members appreciated Higgins' and Dillon's (and Herman's in absentia) contributions to BWRC and celebrated in their honors with a cake, compostable plates, and reusable silverware.

- a. Review and discuss representation at MassRecycle Conference Trade Show – VOTE to sponsor attendance by one or more Committee representatives: Members reviewed their schedules and all but Henderson and Higgins were conflicted out. Higgins is attending for work, and Henderson is interested in representing BWRC at the Conference.

MOTION: Higgins moved to register Henderson to attend the 2023 MassRecycle Conference for BWRC using Committee funds; Willwerth seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

- b. Discuss EarthFest representation (4/23/23, rain date 4/30/23):
 - i. Consider sponsoring raffle prize – VOTE to approve: Green Beverly appreciated BWRC's raffle prize donation last year, CSA Membership through New Entry Farm for \$350, and asked whether they would donate it again. Members discussed level of funding, keeping prizes fun for the public, other prizes offered, and how New Entry helps compost and raise composting awareness. Members were interested in providing raffle tickets either for completing a survey or for participation in an activity/discussion by the BWRC tables.

MOTION: Willwerth moved to donate \$350 to Green Beverly to purchase a CSA (Community-Supported Agriculture) Membership to New Entry Farm for a raffle prize to be noted "Sponsored by the Beverly Waste Reduction Committee" for EarthFest; Dean seconded. Motion carried (7-0).

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- ii. Discuss Waste Station: Henderson suggested having two waste stations, given the spread out nature of the event, having one by the food vendors and one in the Beer Garden. Spang asked whether members suggest having a table by the waste receptacles in the Beer Garden, and Higgins recommended a small card table to help with sorting. Henderson suggested scheduling volunteers in two shifts from 10:30am-12:30pm and from 12:30-2:30pm to cover the event, and having two for each waste station, and 3 BWRC volunteers for each time period (to help train at the waste stations, then 2 to staff the educational station, and 1 floating volunteer).
- iii. Discuss Educational Piece: Henderson and Keefe shared the goal to engage people of all ages, including kids. Henderson would like to focus on encouraging people to assess where they are (relating to waste reduction) and take one more step, and she welcomed input on how to share the message. Higgins suggested a tabletop prize is right-style wheel for people to spin with customizable options (free raffle ticket, stump the experts, etc.). Dean suggested have a pile of items and asking people to guess what goes into the recycling bin vs. compost bin vs. trash bin. Henderson mentioned that Change is Simple did a similar relay-race last year, but this year they will bring a mobile lab and not have a waste race. Dean will work with Willwerth and Swain to workshop the idea for EarthFest, and requested that everyone bring tricky items to the April meeting.

Potential New Member: Dillon introduced Hugh Howard, and members shared introductions. Howard moved to Beverly last June, is interested in sustainability issues, and BWRC members shared some history of BWRC and how it received funding from a MassDEP grant and electronic recycling drives. Hughes shared that he volunteered to help the Beverly Bike Committee at EarthFest, and shared that they plan to set up a bike corral this year to encourage people to ride there. Members discussed wearing pins at EarthFest to help recruit more members, and Keefe is reaching out to students as well.

c. Distribution of City Ordinance for discussion at 4/6/23 meeting: Henderson shared printed copies of the City ordinance establishing the BWRC, and asked members to review it for any recommended updates/revisions to suggest at the April meeting.

d. Discuss use of beverly.wrc@gmail.com account going forward. Access to data on request: Henderson plans to use the BWRC gmail account for official correspondence, and shared that Higgins is including all records and documentation in its associated Google Drive.

e. Discuss use of Instagram, Facebook, Twitter starting in April: Members discussed logistics for changing administrators and logins for the BWRC Facebook and Instagram accounts. Higgins will call Spang to coordinate changing administrators on the Facebook page, and Higgins and Willwerth will look into retrieving login and password information for the Instagram account.

City Updates

Keefe shared that the compost drop-off program is expanding to include a second location at City Hall. Bessie Baker bin will remain in place, and City Hall will also set out small bins on each floor to collect food scraps. Swain shared some feedback on materials in the compost bin, and suggested marking the new lock alignment with a Sharpie for ease of use.

Old business and miscellaneous items

Henderson requested everyone share their information on local options to remove items from the waste stream, the individual research projects from last fall, to keep that moving forward.

i. Pumpkin Smash Survey Results: Henderson will share at the April meeting. She noted that Black Earth agreed to offer the 10% discount for survey responders to sign-up for curbside composting, but none of the 9 people had registered to date (offer expires 3/31/23).

ii. Rat Pack Meeting (3/9/23): Henderson and Keefe shared information about a community meeting scheduled for next week with downtown residents regarding rodent and trash concerns. Spang shared some history of the neighborhood organizing, and Keefe mentioned she will attend to help outline the private hauler ordinance on dumpsters, and Henderson will attend for the BWRC.

Upcoming events

MassRecycles Conference and EarthFest, discussed *supra*.

Other updates and discussion items by Committee members:

Swain asked where to recycle some electronic devices and cords, and members recommended Staples +/- Best Buy, as well as possibly the device manufacturer.

Higgins inquired how well Republic Services is working with the City, and Keefe confirmed that regular pickups are happening and the new supervision position is helping. Keefe mentioned that in other areas Republic is procuring electric trucks for hauling, and the City may someday need new bins to be compatible with electric hauling trucks. Higgins asked about the MassDEP RDP Grant Program, and Keefe confirmed the City received 2022 funds and with Green Teams at each school we will receive an additional point. Rolling out subsidized backyard composting bins along with citywide drop-off composting could earn an additional point, rollout timing is not yet known. The spring application will open on April 12th, and Higgins suggested Henderson review the MassDEP website to identify grant criteria and any possible programs to identify any recommendations BWRC can advocate for or pursue to help increase the City's performance.

Willwerth highlighted the High School Green Team as a possible place to get more students involved with BWRC, and maybe asking whether any other students are working on a DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) project. Keefe shared that next week will include shadow a city employee day, and someone will shadow her through that as well.

Adjourn: Higgins moved to adjourn; Dillon seconded. The motion carried (7-0) at 8:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 6, 2023 at 6:30 PM at Beverly Public Library, Sohier Room