

**CITY OF BEVERLY
WASTE REDUCTION COMMITTEE**

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DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 7, 2022 at 6:30 PM
Beverly Public Library, Sohler Room

Call to order: 6:33 p.m. The meeting began with introductions.

Committee members present: Susan Higgins (Chair), Sandy Burgess, Amy Henderson, Joyce Herman, John Swain, Lisa Willwerth

Committee members absent: Bonnie Dean, Nancy Dillon

Invited participants and guests: Mayor Michael Cahill, Erina Keefe, Ward 1 City Councilor Todd Rotondo

Committee business

- a. Treasurer report/reimbursements: Green Beverly submitted request for reimbursement for the CSA share through New Entry Farm at Moraine Farm that BWRC sponsored, and there is still \$175 balance for the moneys authorized for Green Beverly raffle items/giveaways.
- b. Review and confirm (or adjust) next meeting dates:
 - o August 4, 2022: Higgins will email everyone before the August meeting to coordinate everyone's availability.
 - o September 1, 2022

Review minutes for March 3, 2022 meeting

Willwerth moved to approve the March minutes; Swain seconded. The motion carried (5-0-1); Henderson abstained.

Homecoming / Lobsterfest

Higgins & Dillon met virtually with the Homecoming Committee in June, and the event format will be the same as prior years. Higgins suggests having a volunteer checking in with the catering station more often this year (providing composting tote, clear stream, and cardboard recycling tote for caterers' use). In the morning, gathering one example of all Creative Catering's materials (cutlery, plates, bowls, trays, etc.) helps so volunteers will know which items can be recycled, composted, etc. Recycling all goes into the clear stream throughout the event, and is separated by volunteers at the end → cardboard/paper, returnables (Burgess donates to charity), film plastic (goes to the grocery store). Higgins circulated the volunteer spreadsheet, and Higgins will resend to Herman. Awaiting approval from the Homecoming Committee for the composting cost: Black Earth quoted \$900 this year for delivering 12 clean lined totes, returning for 3 collections (2pm, 5pm, 8pm) to empty and reline the totes, and picking up the 12 totes plus cleaning them before putting back in service for others. Last year's estimate was \$800, so fairly comparable. Quote for Senior Day is \$200 minimum plus \$25 per pickup/toter.

Last year's Lobster Fest collected 18 totes of compost, 3 totes of cardboard, 1 tote of bottles/cans, a 36-gallon bag of returnables, a 36-gallon bag of film plastic, and a 36-gallon bag of chip bags/snack wrappers. Ira Subaru no longer collects in the Terracycle recycling program. Members discussed options for chip bags/snack wrappers: purchasing Terracycle box, driving to a farther Subaru dealership, and places to bring a box if purchased and not filled by Lobster Fest and Senior Day. Terracycle boxes are priced at \$86 for small 11x11x20" box, \$141 for medium, and \$218 for large.

Mayor Cahill thanked the Waste Reduction Committee for their leadership and work for the community, and for doing so well with the stations at Lobster Fest each year. He shared thoughts on Senior Day, ways it has worked well in the past and how it may work this year, with the focus on providing an enjoyable time and meal for Beverly's seniors.

Senior Day: Rotondo reviewed the plans to provide beverage pitchers with compostable cups, compostable trays, and using more compostable than recyclable materials. Each table will have its own condiment bottles, rather than ketchup/mustard/relish packets. Higgins mentioned other things to look for when composting are if people leave handiwipes on trays, or chip bags/snack containers. Senior Center is providing compost clean 3-compartment 10-inch plates, larger section for chicken, hot dog, or hamburger and smaller sections for sides. Higgins confirmed less containers (not having sides in separate cups) will mean less chances for contamination – wrappers, wipes, miscellaneous items should be visible on top of a plate and not in a closed container. Logistically, Higgins suggested volunteers serve and remove plated meals, and think about incorporating long tables or a surface for them to check for personal effects from the compostable meal to throw in the trash.

Higgins shared concerns from past Senior Days included food cooked for people with tickets who may not make it, and large portions leading to food waste. Rotondo suggested portion sizes, and to prepare in advance but cook to match the number of attendees that day. That way, prepared but unused food can be donated to groups in the city. Swain offered to help facilitate leftover donations; Henderson offered to help volunteer with Senior Day. Lastly, in past years the seating was all under a tent and the volunteers and waste sorting stations were outside the tent, which can be challenging on a hot sunny day. Keefe confirmed Parks & Recreation has pop-up tents at Lynch Park they can look into using to provide shade. Higgins and Keefe will also coordinate what materials (clear stream, metal frames, plastic tops, laminated signs, etc.) can be stored overnight in the Carriage House to use for both events.

Discussion on whether Black Earth can provide a combined quote for both events, and if that would save trips/money. Black Earth may also have a sponsorship opportunity for Lobster Fest and is communicating with Medley Long regarding options to offset the committee's composting costs that way. Suggestions for future years to talk with Black Earth about more advantageous event pricing if the City can provide the dates/weekends for large citywide events for advance planning.

Higgins shared a letter from the Council on Aging looking for sponsors for Senior Day. BWRC has provided volunteers and purchase compostable products in the past (this year they are using the leftover products already purchased). General discussion about sponsorship and

difficulty to pull together a sponsor table this year. Revisited conversation around Terracycle options for Homecoming. Swain moves to buy a medium-sized Terracycle box for the estimated price of \$141 to be used for Lobster Fest and Senior Day; Willwerth seconded. The motion carried (6-0). Swain moves to not sponsor the Senior Day event in 2022; Willwerth seconded. The motion carried (6-0).

City updates and discussion items

- a. Boston Globe: front page article on how the MassNaturals composting facility spread ‘forever chemicals’ across a town in Massachusetts –contaminating homes, water, soil, farms, etc. It is devastating news for the communities, families, and for a company that’s been trying to do the right thing for such a long time. In light of the article, Keefe reached out to the vendor to confirm current compostable materials are BPI certified, and whether they contain PFA chemicals (called ‘forever’ because they never go away).

- b. Loaning water stations – Inspector Reale provided guidance if the City wanted to own things and loan for a deposit for groups to use at events: (1) have a dedicated volunteer sit next to an igloo station, and filling each container/cup for people; or (2) have a dispenser pump sitting on top of an office cooler jug for people to fill their own cups. Library of Things is not an option, as they lack staff to handle sanitation. Goal is to have an events protocol document on reducing waste:
 - Talk with vendors / incentivize options for sourcing food/beverages/containers
 - Water stations
 - Waste stations
 - Vendor-led options (information needed to request quotes from City Compost, Bootstraps Compost, Black Earth Compost, etc.)

- c. Republic Services/JRM: Keefe met with city’s liaison Tyler Finnegan who is going to confirm whether black plastics can be recycled, and whether recycling will be collected via single or dual stream in Beverly. Sue advised on the education/outreach side, she has worked with Gretchen Carey from Republic Services who Keefe confirmed will be Beverly’s contact for education/outreach moving forward. Higgins requested whether someone could attend BWRC meetings, and Keefe will inquire. Trash/Recycling and Technical Compliance Officer Gerard Rathe has been overseeing the work haulers do in the trucks – riding along with them and working on education with the staff. He may be able to share his observations at a future meeting too.

- d. June Styrofoam Event – not a strong Beverly showing of less than 30 cars at the event, maybe 15 car loads of Styrofoam collected at the Library leading up to the

event. There were more Salem residents, and a lot of medical coolers for shipped medications. Unsure whether twice annually is worthwhile for Beverly, whether it makes sense to include a third community. Filled ¾ of the 53-foot container, so slightly less than January but still pretty close. Higgins advised Nancy Gilberg of Salem requested a collection summary.

Old business and miscellaneous items

- a. Reuse and recycling research: Henderson drafted a spreadsheet for collecting research into specific items that everyone has conducted. Members discussed ways to collate information in advance of the next meeting. Spang offered to create and circulate a Google form for people to separately enter their data for review at the next meeting. Members can designate editor(s) for the spreadsheet from there, and provide viewing access by link to all other members and the general public through the minutes.

Upcoming events

None.

Other updates and discussion items by Committee members

None.

Adjourn: Henderson moved to adjourn; Willwerth seconded. The motion carried (6-0) at 8:21pm.

NEXT MEETING:

TBD via email

Location: Beverly Public Library, Sohler Room