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BELMONT, MA

DATE: July 24, 2023
TIME: 9:14 AM

Belmont Solid Waste and Recycling Committee
2023.02.17

Attendees	Committee Members Not Present
Mahesh Jayakumar, chair (present for part of the meeting)	
Doug Koplou, vice chair	
Jason Ketola, secretary	
Terri Goldberg	
Julie Wu	
Jay Marcotte (ex officio), Director of Public Works	
Kevin Bouck (ex officio), Recycling Coordinator	

The meeting was called to order at 8:08am. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Textile collection

- Doug said he's not ready to vote on a preferred vendor, because he'd like more information from the vendors about where the collected items are going.
- Doug suggested we reject Simply Recycling because their online reviews are poor and their customer service has been unresponsive.
- Mahesh asked if it would be helpful if we as committee members got on a call with the vendors to ask questions. Doug said he would like the information about where the collected items go in writing.
- Kevin will share information that Helpsy sent him about where collected items go. He displayed an email that Helpsy shared that indicated several outlets for the goods.
- Julie suggested we ask Helpsy and CMRK for more information about where the items go and say we need it for our decision making.
- Jay and Kevin will reach out to the Municipal Assistance Coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to see if she can provide any further information to us.
- Terri said we should also let residents know about all their options even after we pick a collection vendor.

Recycling and composting in Belmont schools

- Kevin has been visiting schools to learn about their recycling programs and to educate them about composting.
- Before additional schools implement composting programs there would be negotiations with the union to which custodians belong to address any impacts on work levels.
- Julie said there is a group of students who are interested in implementing composting at Belmont High School.
- The schools have “Green Teams” that collect recycling from classrooms and take them to loading docks.
- There is no policy around recycling in the schools. Recycling is up to the discretion of each teacher.
- Julie will do some research into how other schools have dealt with union issues. Terri said she’s observed it can take time to do the negotiations and get updates to contracts.

Update to Select Board on non-mandatory parts of the town’s solid waste and recycling program

- The Select Board has requested that we update them regarding which parts of the program are not mandatory; this will allow them to assess potential changes in how these programs are funded. Bulky waste pickup is one example.
- Jay said Waste Management would be willing to provide pickups outside of the town contract at a cost of \$25 per item. This excludes mattresses, because they have no outlet for them.
- Terri said we should talk to our state representatives about having the state set up an extended producer responsibility program for mattresses.

Next meeting

- The next meeting will be Friday, March 31 at 8am.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03am.