

TSARC January 10th 2022

Committee Member	Present?
Jacqueline Alford	√
Chris Carlin	√
Andrea "Andy" Costello	√ Chair
Cheryl Dunlea	√
Nancy Irwin	√
Donna Knott	√
Barbara Meyer	√
Kimberly Schubert	X
Annette Wells	√ Chair
Maurice Goulet, DPW Director, Ex Officio	X
Robert Kennedy, Ex Officio	√
Kristine Trierweiler, Ex Officio	X

Also present: Nick Milano, Megan Sullivan

Meeting opened remotely through Zoom at 9:00 and being recorded

#### 1. Introductions

- **Next meeting:** Andy and Nancy chair
- **Future meetings:** March - Nancy and Chris; April - Chris and Jackie; May - Jackie and Cheryl; June - Cheryl and Donna; July - Donna and Barbara
- **Follow-up note taker:** Chris

#### 2. Reviewed and approved December minutes, have quorum

#### 3. CMRK - guest speaker Taylor (Director of Business Development)

The organization has been around for 35 years and collects clothing, textiles and small household items. Around 25 million pounds of clothing and textiles are kept out of landfills each year by CMRK through bins around Massachusetts at schools, nonprofits, fire departments, police stations, school departments and businesses

CMRK prides themselves on their service and tries to be part of communities. They service bins at least weekly or, for some bins, daily and have 25 trucks operating 7 days a week with a skeleton crew on Saturday and Sunday. They run special projects on weekends such as clothing drives and they prepare social media posts that communities can repost. Besides bins, they collect clothing through free residential pickups scheduled online that are done by Big Brother Big Sister Foundation. The pickups count towards a town's overall diversion rate and can help residents who are homebound or have many items to donate. New regulations going into effect this year will ban sending clothing to the landfill and CMRK would like to help communities adjust. They have started adding additional bins outside the TS in some communities

CMRK is a wholesaler and sells most items to thrift stores throughout the country where there is lower access to clothing, stores or items than in Massachusetts. Massachusetts, Chicago and Washington DC have the hottest market for secondhand clothing and textiles. CMRK believes in

secondhand; giving items new life and helping the environment. For textiles that cannot be sold, clothes can be broken down into new fibers, made into oil rags or used for purposes such as the pad under a car seat. Jeans can be made into insulation and they are starting to be added to asphalt. Unusable plastic toys, broken glass, cardboard, metal and paper is separated out of household goods and broken down. Though some items of poor quality were received at the start of the pandemic, most items received are in good condition. Bins are placed in visible locations to help avoid dumping and they advertise for residents to pack items as if they were moving to help avoid the items breaking

The committee will be sent information on a question asked about the percentage of donating vs. selling done at CMRK. Nancy will be in touch with CMRK about the tonnage of clothing the TS has sent to them for the year so that Donna Cimeno can report the information to the DEP

#### 4. TS Committee Initiatives

- A. **Donation Bins TS:** Will work on reviewing the contact information for each vendor
- B. **CMRK offering 3 clothing bins for bottles & cans:** Replacing the bins will be paused until the plan for where the bottles and cans should be dropped off is revisited. Jackie spoke with the owner of the center in Walpole that was under consideration for dropping off bottles and cans now that Bullard's no longer accepts them in bulk. They work with other transfer stations and would be happy to work with Medfield. Glass is not currently collected at the center since there is not a good market for it but they collect cans and returnable plastic bottles and give 5 cents/can or bottle. Bags can be supplied to the TS if needed and they can work with the TS with any collection frequency. Bobby will speak with the owner and the account where the checks should be sent will be determined. Previous checks have been used for the Grist Mill Fund and it was decided to continue having the checks support it
- C. **School Plan:**
  - o Will pursue having a photo in the newspaper of the wheel game used at the Medfield Day booth showing it in use during high school lunch breaks. Several sessions of the game were run by the Medfield High School Environmental Club and permission to use photos from it has been received
  - o Two buckets and more liners are needed to replace previous supplies for food composting. They will be ordered from Wills Hardware using the revolving fund
  - o Will contact the schools and discuss any updates from them at next month's meeting
- D. **Recycling Quick Tips / Recycling Ambassadors:** Tips continue to be written each week. Recycling Ambassadors will be making selfie frames from paper and cardboard in January and will meet again in early February. Discussed possibly including recycling tips in the TSARC section of the town's website through links to the newsletters
- E. **Transfer Station Tour:** Donna will begin planning with the library for when a tour of the TS in the spring will be organized

- F. **Partner with MEMO:** Will continue to discuss with MEMO the idea of business having posters in their windows with simple messages about recycling. May write a recycling tip about looking for the posters at the businesses
- G. **Styrofoam Collection:** Insulation Technology, Inc. would be willing to come to the TS for a collection. Styrofoam is recycled by them into insulation and upholstery filling. The cost would be \$400 for them to bring a tractor-trailer to the TS and it would need to be loaded by collection volunteers. Food-related Styrofoam and some colored Styrofoam would be accepted so long as clean and dry. The committee decided to continue pursuing holding a collection and potentially do so in March. Will ask for volunteers from students and adults. Would need to acquire more transparent bags since all of them were used during the last collection and will ask Insulation Technology, Inc. for suggestions. Purchasing them previously cost around \$200. Considering accepting just packaging materials like past collections for this collection rather than immediately expanding to accepting other types of Styrofoam. Voted with a majority yes to have Jackie continue to do research for a possible collection and voted with a majority yes to allot \$1,000 to pay for one to two trucks and the purchase of bags
- H. **Trailer for household donations:** Will be discussed at next month's meeting
- I. **Big Belly compactor:** Would cost \$7,983 for the compactor, the delivery, the initial liner bags and the ability to use their software for 5 years for notification of when emptying the compactors is needed. The battery would need to be replaced every few years for around \$150 and liners would be resupplied by Big Belly for \$130/200 liners (100 for trash and 100 for recycling). The combined trash and recycling compactor would potentially be added to North Street. Voted unanimously to allocate the \$7,983 needed for the compactor
- J. **"One Little Bag":** A sticker mentioning that the books to be donated to the elementary schools and MAP were given by TSARC to encourage future recycling ambassadors is in development and will be sent to the committee for review

## 5. Transfer Station Operations

- A. **TS Stickers (2021-2022) - Counts and Fees:**
  - 3,244 stickers year-to-date with 35 first stickers purchased in December. The total stickers purchased for the month was 69 with 49 total new stickers and 20 replacements
- B. **Tonnage report of Recycling and Trash:**
  - o The trash for the 2021 calendar year was around 100 tons less than in 2020 and 200 tons more than in 2019
  - o A comparison of trash/sticker was done between this year and 2019 when it would have been a similar period in the two year sticker cycle. The amount of trash for the 2021 calendar year was around 0.87 tons/sticker but it was around 0.81 tons/sticker for the 2019 calendar year. Less trash was generated in 2021 than in 2020 but the trash/sticker is around 7% higher than in 2019

- C. **Recycling Dividends and Revolving Funds:** The revolving fund has increased to \$8,980 from last month and \$1,000 would be used from it for the Styrofoam collection. The Recycling Dividends remains at \$31,920 and \$6,000 will be added from last year's Recycling Dividends grant application. Around \$8,000 would be used from it for the Big Belly compactor. To meet the requirements for the Recycling Dividends program, Medfield's "buy recycled" policy will need to be out and the TS tonnage reported by mid-February and the application will need to be sent in by June. Donna Cimeno will complete the requirements with information sent to her by the committee
- D. **Recycling Dividends Budget Spending Plan 2022:**
- o Reviewed the budget plan for the remaining calendar year and the next three years to be able to report the plan to the DEP. A large amount of money has accumulated from not purchasing much except for a display for the library's unusual items collection during the past several years
  - o Considering directing some money this year to town buildings and schools, the purchase of a 40 foot trailer for mattresses, a town-wide mailing, the Big Belly compactor and potentially supporting the restart of the mattress program, likely leading to an end balance of around \$16,961
  - o Future years would involve funding town buildings and schools, town-wide education initiatives and holding an outreach program such as a repair café
  - o Planning was done expecting that the amount of money received will decrease in future years as the requirements for the program become stricter
  - o Voted unanimously to approve the proposed budget plan

#### 6. Topics for Constant Contact Newsletter for January

- Photos from the Recycling Ambassadors' January program; update about FOAM collection and how to volunteer for helping with it; recycling tips on battery recycling and disposal, simple practices to keep in mind for the New Year and recycling based on a container's shape rather than the stamped triangle; photos from the sessions of the wheel game run at the high school; information about the TS trailer; curb alerts continuing; transfer station hours and reminders to flatten boxes and empty bags/boxes of recycling when using the compactor and to only use compostable bags when using the compost bins

#### 7. Reports:

- **Sustainable Medfield:** Two TEAMS related to the committee have been created on the ACTION portal of the website, [sustainablemedfield.org](http://sustainablemedfield.org). Sustainable Medfield hopes to be a repository for groups' activities and to help provide outreach support. After each quarterly meeting a theme will be chosen. The most recent focus was on outreach and after the March meeting the focus will be on the outdoors and gardening. Discussed ideas for events the committee could hold related to the theme such as a rain barrel sale, compost bin and organics program promotion and a webinar on backyard compost bins. Will discuss ideas further in February after researching rain barrels and contacting the high school about possibly helping with the theme

- **TOMCAP:** A draft of the solid waste section of the town of Medfield Climate Action Plan has been received and any input to give about it will be discussed during next month's meeting

## 8. Additional Topics

- A. Budget Spending Items:** Not discussed further
- B. Use of grant funds:**
  - o **Postcard Mailing:** A draft postcard with information from recyclesmart.org has been created. Would cost \$2,300 or less to send the postcard and waiting for one more quote. Recycle Smart MA was contacted and were in favor of a mailing for broader outreach than just sending information digitally. Discussed whether other outreach options could be alternatives to a postcard to avoid potentially creating an item that would quickly be thrown away. Discussed as well what the timing for sending it should be and what information about recycling would be most beneficial to residents. Voted with a majority yes to send a postcard mailing and work on finalizing the design and cost. May wait to send it until plans for resuming plastic bag recycling at the TS are determined. Creating fridge magnets with information about recycling was proposed and will discuss the idea further next month
- C. Town Capital Budget - Compactor:** The committee would continue to support getting a third compactor at the TS but would no longer consider paying for half of it after reviewing the Recycling Dividends budget spending plan
- D. Committee Responsibilities:** Will continue to be reviewed
- E. TS Online Brochure:** The revisions discussed in December will be worked on
- F. Review Follow-up List:** Will be sent out for review after the meeting
- G. Zoom meetings:** Will continue to meet virtually for at least another month
- H. Plastic Bag collection at TS:** Hoping to resume the collection later this spring
- I. Pay-As-You-Throw:** Research will continue so that PAYT can be considered when planning begins for the reconfiguration of the TS. Will continue to discuss questions with other towns and Andy, Maurice and Bobby will meet to discuss PAYT

9. Next TSARC meeting set for Monday, February 14th at 9:00am via Zoom. Adjourned 10:57