

## RECYCLING COMMITTEE 1/11/22 MEETING MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Kathleen Walker, Deb Marquis, Catherine Jolicoeur, Joe Mahaney, Celeste Mahaney

**ABSENT:** Mike Cunningham, Marissa DeJesus

Minutes from last meeting were read and unanimously approved.

### **Old Business:**

Diane Dabroski provided a picture for the committee to use on the Keep Charlton Beautiful website.

Board of Selectmen meeting- Joe spoke to Mary Devlin prior to presenting to the BOS. The BOS is not supportive of pursuing a by-law against littering. There is money available to the town from the pandemic which hasn't been dog-eared for uses yet, so we should submit to the town suggestions of what we'd like the money spent on.

Joe spoke w/ Jen Callahan in Oxford about the cost of beautification and about the process they used to initiate the project.

Joe checked on the price of replacing our current signs in the event we want to add more direct language about fines. The Massachusetts law says that up to a \$5500 fine can be imposed on an individual for a first littering offense. The cost of making signs which state that would be approximately \$2500. We could also purchase appliques for trash cans which would cost \$200. Deb voiced that it may be pointless to post signs for punitive measures if the town can't/won't enforce it. Joe stated that the thought process is to scare people into not littering. The cute signs haven't worked. The \$2500 would cover the cost of relacing 50 signs. The committee felt there may be 15-20 signs. Joe offered that he and Celeste would drive through the streets counting the signs. Concerns that we may be sued for putting up the signs without the town having a bylaw in place were discussed. However, the state does have a law which assigns a \$5500 fine for first-time littering offenses, so we're simply stating the law. It was agreed that Joe would put it on the list of the things the town could purchase with the unused pandemic money.

The website mentions the new name of Keep Charlton Beautiful but the members listed is inaccurate. Deb will ask for it to be updated.

Catherine asked if the electronic sign outside the library mentions anything about litter. Joe said he reached out and he has the form to fill out and it needs to be approved prior to the

message being placed on the sign. The committee agreed that they wanted Joe to fill out the form to address littering.

The DEP grant agreement was sent in by Kara in the selectman's office. Next Deb and Kara will do the DEP Solid Waste and Recycling survey. We need to spend the small grant funds. Water collecting planter is something we can buy to raffle. Go Green Solutions in Grafton has been the company we've purchased them from. We need to buy more items, though, to use the grant money. We have a number of New Age composters to sell. Starting this spring on Earth Day we'll sell them for \$25. Everyone needs to help decide what we can buy to spend the grant on, that's at least 30% recycled material. We still have around \$800 of profit from our sales, \$300 of which has already been spent on Keep Mass Beautiful membership. We want to see how this committee can positively affect the Earth Day committee. We agreed to have Linda Davis participate in our next meeting. Deb called Linda Davis and she invited us to participate in the Earth Day Zoom meeting at 6:30PM on 1/18.

#### **New Business:**

Joe discussed the "own the road" idea whereby people can sign up to keep a road clean. We plan to distribute clean up kits to those who volunteer to help clean up. An idea was floated out that we could do a newsletter announcing the benefits available to all Charlton residents and, in that newsletter, recruit people to maintain the streets. Joe to look into the costs of vests and reachers for our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.