



**SOUTH SHORE
RECYCLING
COOPERATIVE**

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

PO Box 247
Westwood, MA 02090
781.329.8318
director@ssrcoop.info
ssrcoop.info

SSRC MSW Manager/Board Minutes

Thurs., Jan, 17, 2018, Kingston Town Hall

Accepted 2/21/19

Attendance: **Cohasset:** Merle Brown*; **Hanson:** Arlene Dias *; **Hingham:** Randy Sylvester*, Brenda Black; **Hull:** Joyce Sullivan*; **Kingston:** Paul Basler*, Jean Landis Naumann*; **Norwell:** Ben Margro, Vicky Spillane*; **Weymouth:** Fred Happel*

MassDEP: Ellie Donovan, Todd Koep; **SSRC:** Claire Galkowski, Dorie Stolley

Guests: Ken Stone, Plymouth; Bruce Graham, Norwell; Jeanne Ryan, Marshfield; Lee Burns, Sandwich/Plymouth; Janis Owens, Sustainable Duxbury

(*Appointed Board Representatives)

Chairman Brown called to order at 9:12

Approve **Dec. minutes:** Mr. Basler moved to accept as written, Mr. Sylvester seconded, AIF

Financial report: Income/expense form was distributed. Treasurer Dias reported that we are solvent, on track for FY19.

Recycling Dividend Program grant planning: Municipal Assistance Coordinator Todd Koep reminded towns that prerequisites to apply for grants include submission of the 2018 Recycling Data Survey, distribution of a Buy Recycled memo by the Town manager or equivalent, and Recycling in practice in municipal buildings AND schools.

Grant applications open on ReTrac mid-April, due June 12. Need a minimum of 8 points to qualify. Maximum points up to 26 from 23. Curbside/dropoff requirements have been combined.

Textile point: join webinar from 2-3pm today. 1 of 5 requirements, easy. SSRC is doing radio ads and data tracking, which are 2 other requirements. Only need 2 more, including bins at schools, bins at TS/RC, and link to Beyond the Bin Directory on web page.

Compost bin point: subsidized at \$25. SSRC will do a radio ad, need one more thing.

Collecting food waste town wide for composting or AD is worth 2 points, a pilot is worth 1.

RECO report: Chairman Brown introduced our new Recycling Education and Compliance Officer, Dorie Stolley. She will complete the DEP grant project, which is to improve compliance by residents or haulers with recycling rules in each town

Dorie is completing whole process with Scituate, doing outreach on town website, print and social media, WATD radio interview flyer, direct communication. She will be at TS for a month, teaching residents about new rules. Assistant DPW Director Sean McCarthy and TS crew are eager to reduce contamination. Some materials have changed due to market changes, is confusing people. Before and after photos of Scituate loads will evaluate success. Quantify by counting plastic bags in photo.

Will be doing follow up in most other SSRC towns, in which our previous RECO Julie had already worked, to see how well her feedback stuck.

Discussion of plastic bag bans without fees ([summary](#))

Several South Shore towns have passed local plastic bag bans, and several more are considering them.

Plastic bag ban advocates asked that SSRC not take a position opposing local bans. Mr. Stone, who helped Plymouth pass a ban in 2016, is working with other towns that have brought bans forward. The strategy is to pressure the legislature to bring a statewide bill to the floor. The Eldridge/Ehrlich bill includes a 10c fee on paper bags, and allows towns to pass more restrictive bans.

Director is concerned that bans on plastic with no fees or restrictions on paper bags will increase the use of the much heavier paper bags. This will result in higher solid waste and recycling tonnage, costing our Member towns an estimated \$1000/1000households/year at a time when recycling costs are already skyrocketing. Paper also incurs more adverse environmental impacts from the energy-, chemical-, water- and land-intense production and transportation of paper than its functional equivalent plastic, including higher greenhouse gas emissions. While not as visible as plastic pollution, this impacts the oceans by chemical pollution, acidification and higher temperatures. Bans also don't require 100% recycled content for paper bags, although they are readily available and would help drive needed market demand for paper.

Director pointed out that last legislative session, the previous bill was stripped of the fee and pre-empted local bans in a compromise. It didn't come to a floor vote. The Speaker has never allowed bills with fees or taxes to come to the floor in the Director's many years of experience. Advocates postulated that a critical mass of local support could prevail this time.

Advocates disagreed with the environmental comparisons of plastic to paper. The materials have different environmental risks, noting that some chemicals used to produce plastics are hormone disruptors. The impacts of ocean plastic on animals that ingest or become entangled in them, and resultant human health impacts are not quantified in life cycle analyses. They consider paper the lesser of two evils. Bag bans highlight problems of all single use plastic, such as Styrofoam. Characterized plastic bag bans as a "gateway drug" to bans on straws and styrofoam. Characterized the costs to towns of a few thousand dollars /year as minimal.

The Board discussed some other implications and strategies, including the magnitude of the garbage patch, and a focus on education.

Advocates indicated they could get behind 100% recycled paper requirement.

No action was taken.

Municipal program updates (discussion)

Pace Glass won't come up anymore, too far. Hingham still using UTEC for mattresses, needs to add a fee, will be changing to Ace in RI. Less expensive.

Executive Director's Report: Review [SSRC Updates](#)

Legislation in new session: Rep. Cutler filed HD1042, an extended producer responsibility bill on paper and packaging. Would shift cost of most recycling to producers.

Next meetings 2/21, Rockland Senior Center. 3/28, Abington Town Hall

10:40 Adjourn