

Waste Reduction & Recycling Committee
5-15-23 5:00 p.m.
Dublin Town Hall

In attendance: Judy Mortner, Zach Davis, Susan Shonk, Meredith Martin and Tom Kennedy

The minutes of the meetings of 4-10-23 were approved.

Outreach & Education – Earth Day

Zach reported that May Clark was pleased with the participation of the community on the revival of the roadside clean-up and other activities at the Dub-Hub on Earth Day. She thought that the majority of the roads in Dublin were cleaned up. Besides the Dub-Hub, the Conservation Commission and WR&RC and a few other organizations all participated in the activities. It sounds as if the Dub Hub plans to do it next year and make it even bigger.

Susan wondered if the community might want to consider adopt-a-road as a way of carrying on the roadside clean-up project throughout the year. Perhaps the teams could have blaze orange T-shirts. Judy would like to encourage a two-bag approach, with one bag for recyclable items.

The Committee thought that Zach's information sheets were just right for the day.

Outreach – Banner Promoting Free Reusable Grocery Bags

The reusable bags are here and Judy and Meredith are ready to place the order for the banner to promote them. Tom has set up a display space on the side of the main building at the Transfer Station and he will set them out each open day and take them into the building at night. Judy will work with the *Advocate* on a photo and a story.

Waste reduction – Compost

The trial composting program officially begins today, on May 15th. Tom and Zach will work on wording for the signage, one list of "Acceptable" items and another for "Not acceptable." The estimated cost for the signs is \$70 each. Susan suggested that the Committee ask the *Advocate* if they can print a summary of the lists with a border showing that the information can be cut out and kept handy.

Zach says that we will have to evaluate this project as we go along to determine if we need any adjustments. He will purchase a thermometer for use monitoring the compost. Composting should be considered experimental, but if people

participate it will reduce a lot of waste. We don't yet know what uses might be appropriate for our compost product.

Waste reduction – TREX

We'd like to see some publicity for the TREX bench that we've earned since beginning the plastic bag collection in the fall. Tom offered the bench to the Conservation Commission and they plan to use it at Rotary Park. Judy wants signage that explains that TREX is good for now, but not a good long-term solution to the problem of plastic.

Waste reduction – PAYT

Because the community is recycling less than it was before Covid, we see PAYT as a way to incentivise recycling. We want to consider having a community forum on the topic perhaps at the Dub Hub in the fall with a panel of people who know PAYT and can promote it and answer questions about it. We would also like to see if we could offer the reusable bags at the Dub Hub and include some information to go with them.

Process

Judy suggested that we might work on teams between meetings as a way of getting some of our work done. The group agreed and volunteered to work on these tasks before the June meeting:

Zach – Compost

Susan & Zach – Community Forum

Judy & Meredith – TREX, Reusable bags

Action on adopt-a-road will be postponed for now.

We are all reminded to pick up bags of plastic when we are at the Transfer Station, though Tom has a good system going.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Martin