



Bath Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Meeting of March 29, 2021  
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Elizabeth Dingley, Lee Leiner, Peter Owen, Aaron Park, Paul Perkins, George Sprague, Brook Vail

Members Absent: Lou Ricciardone

Guests:

Agenda:

- MDEP Waste Diversion Grant opportunity
- City statement to support upcoming EPR legislation

Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as written.

Suggestion to add the Garbage to Garden compost drop-off kiosks to the application under past project experience. Lee will add this to the application.

Suggestion to bring the Farmers Market table forward on the timeline to take advantage of the season and get started earlier. Lee will make this change.

Lee will make contact with the compost bin manufacturer to get pricing, availability, and delivery details. Discussion on whether to rent a truck to deliver the bins and include this cost in the grant application. Alternative would be use of city vehicles/staff as part of City match. City staff could drop off the items at each residence first, and committee members could then visit the resident to discuss set-up and composting later.

The Farmers Market table will need posters and or signs. Posters will be needed to hang around Bath as well. Signage will be needed for the compost kiosks.

Short debate on giving away compost bins for free versus charging a small fee for each one. Selling may be difficult as we would be competing against our own free drop-off option. However, selling them would bring in some compensating revenue, and would increase the perceived value of the item. The selling price would be less than retail and would be subsidized by the grant/City match. Paul will get some information about how it was done in Kennebunk and the success of that program. George will contact Megan for information as well.

Discussion about a recorded lecture that could be shown repeatedly on BCTV. Suggestion to have a presentation by someone at Chewonki.

Suggestion to add to the goals mentioned in the grant application to reduce generation of methane/greenhouse gases from breakdown of organic wastes in the landfill by diverting that waste.

Debate on number of bins to purchase, 50 vs. 100. Smaller amount is a manageable number and realistic based on previous experience with backyard bin sales. Larger amount would allow the program to continue longer into the future without restarting. Would be good to have data on the cost/lb. diverted.

Discussion on size of the lobster trap wire compost bins. Are they too big for a household? The smaller version is more manageable for typically tight Bath yards.

Discussion on how/whether to include schools in this effort. The RSU recycling committee is interested but the district has its hands full just dealing with education during Covid. It takes time to find the right teachers/administrators and get integrated with the curriculums. A larger order would allow bins to be set up at the schools when the time is right. Decision to approach schools after the Covid crisis passes. Communication with RSU recycling committee should be restarted. Brook's husband is on that committee and she will talk with him about the committee status.

Discussion shifted to an email from Megan to the committee asking the City of Bath for support on upcoming legislation related to a proposed extended producer responsibility law to increase recycling and recyclability of packaging materials in Maine. The proposal has not yet been assigned an LD number so there is time for the committee to do some research. If support is warranted, a resolution will be drafted for the City Council to consider.

Next meeting: TBD and with email exchanges as necessary to support grant application process