



Sustainability Committee

Minutes
June 4, 2018
6pm - Room C

Attendance:

Phil LeBlanc, Joanne Petersen, Emily Roy, Mark Broski, Christine Maher

Aldermen: Ben MacShane

Guests: Elizabeth Law, Robert Law, Julia Schaeffer

1. May minutes were approved.
2. Zach Fleagle, City Superintendent of Sanitation, reported that the three split-top trash/recycling cans had the lids painted and two were put back on the street. One can remains at DPW because of construction at the Square Corner. Fleagle stated that before the can lids were painted, contamination was near 100% and after painting, contamination was still about 90%. Fleagle recommends separate recycling and trash containers rather than split cans. Fleagle indicated that when the trash side of the can gets full, people put trash in the recycling side. One member asked how often trash was picked up downtown and Fleagle indicated that it was picked up once per day, seven days a week.

Fleagle and others agreed that enforcement would be critical if these cans were to be effective. Emily suggested using Committee time to focus on a project that would be more worthwhile. The Committee requested an invitation for Annemarie Creamer from the County's recycling office attend a future meeting to determine if recycling education could be that focus for the Committee.

Phil reported that cigarette butt pickup is on hiatus until the new cigarette butt receptacles are deployed downtown. He will pick up butts just before they are deployed and then check again after to determine if they are effective. Thirty receptacles are at DPW waiting to be deployed. A few will be placed and then will wait for the final go-ahead from HPC for the remainder of the canisters.

3. Christine updated the Committee on a Businesses Who Care model that is already being done by a local group. She is researching and will bring the info to the July meeting.
4. Mark asked that the community engagement discussion be tabled until July. Christine offered that Middletown is doing a lecture series that we might be able to partner on or support.
5. Quarterly Community Engagement
 - a. Mark provided a document for the group to review that shows the order of operations for ordinance and code changes.
 - b. Joanne has not been able to reach the Arts Council contact because of scheduling conflicts so asked if this could be tabled until July. Emily requested that the “Exploring Options for Downtown & Parks” portion of this subgroup be taken off the title since the group is no longer exploring those options. Emily suggested looking through the Sustainability Plan and developing concrete ideas from the Waste and Recycling section that the Committee might move forward.
6. Mark provided some documents on GHGs and Carbon Neutral 2050. How could the Committee help the City become carbon neutral by 2050? Mark asked for this information to be discussed at the July meeting.
7. Public Comment
 - a. Julia Schaeffer discussed the option of making it a requirement for City property owners to keep litter, including cigarette butts, off their sidewalks. Julia is working with Alderman MacShane to develop some provisions in the City code to be sure that cigarette butts are defined as litter and that the responsibility is on the property owners to clean the sidewalk.
- 8. NEXT MEETING IS ON JULY 2, 6PM, AT CITY HALL, ROOM 212. (101 North Court Street)**