

City of Biddeford
Recycling & Solid Waste Management Commission
August 16, 2023 6:30 PM ZOOM

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - 2.1. July 19, 2023 Minutes
[Recycling & Solid Waste Management Minutes 7.19.23.pdf](#)
- 3. Discussion / Approval**
 - 3.1. Update - Contamination Audit
 - 3.2. Update - Composting Food Waste / New Permit through D.E.P. at P.W. Facility
 - 3.3. Biddeford HHW Day - Saturday, September 9, 2023 - 8am-12pm
 - 3.4. Update on Video for Curbside Placement of Bins
 - 3.5. Update - New Bin for Textile Goods coming to recycling
- 4. Other Business**
- 5. Commission Roster Changes**
- 6. Agenda for Next Meeting**

Recycling & Solid Waste Management Commission Minutes

July 19th, 2023 6:30 PM Meeting

1. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:32pm.
- b. Present: Members Burkett, Malon, LaFountain, Ortiz, Shapiro, Tarbox and Goodrow. Absent: Members Enan and O'Driscoll.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approved unanimously.

3.1. Update on contamination audit

- a. Casella conducted an audit last month and there was considerable improvement in contamination results compared to April.
- b. Parkside went from **17% contamination in April to 10% contamination in June** after education.
- c. High Street went from **38% contamination in April to 12% contamination in June** after education.
- d. The most common contaminants were plastic wrapping, single use plastics (cups, utensils, plates), pet food bags, styrofoam, and textiles.
- e. Solid Waste Supervisor Rocco DeLuca and his team continue to tag contaminated bins, educate residents, and pull bins when necessary.

3.2. New comments on enforcing recycling violations going forward

- a. Public Works has pulled 11 bins so far.
- b. All the property owners are aware and understand the rationale. Property owners received additional education and multiple chances to improve their recycling habits before any bins were pulled.
- c. Some property owners have purchased the larger bins.
- d. The new ordinance has been in effect for six months.

3.3. Update - Composting food waste / New permit for cooking oil through D.E.P.

- a. Public Works has submitted all relevant information for the new compost bin. Public Works is awaiting a response from D.E.P.

3.4. Update - New Waste Trucks

- a. The fully automated curbside pick-up trucks are being assembled and will be delivered to the City by October.
- b. Director Demers and his team are creating an educational video on bin placement to prepare residents for the change.
- c. The Public Works team will also be developing an education campaign to inform residents on why the City is using automated trucks.
- d. With the new automated trucks, overflow bags can be placed on top of the bin and still be collected.
- e. For context, Casella is also automating their trucks. Casella will be fully automated in all Maine towns by next year.
- f. It is imperative that the City's roll-out of automated solid waste pickup goes well, so the Commission and Public Works Department will continue to plan, educate, and adapt as needed.

3.5. Update on fees for PAYT orange bags

- a. Orange overflow bag fees increased last month. The increase was marginal and was needed exclusively to cover the increased bag costs for the City.
- b. This is the first orange overflow bag fee increase in over three years,
- c. The City only signed a 1 year contract.
- d. Public Works will sequester additional bids before this contract ends next year.

3.5. Update on new ordinance for overflow household trash

- a. Director Demers and his team are working on updating the City's definition of household trash.
- b. Public Work will use the D.E.P definition for household trash.
- c. Public Works is also exploring the acquisition of a permit to be able to take trash directly at the transfer station.
- d. Currently, the City has 162 large bins rented. The Public Works staff has done an incredible job marketing this program to new users and retaining existing users.

3.6. Review Saco HHW Day

- a. 22 Biddeford residents attended Saco's HHW Day. The City of Biddeford was billed \$3,027.

3.7. HHW Day for Biddeford - September 9, 2023

- a. Biddeford's HHW Day is scheduled for September 9th.
- b. Public Works will use this opportunity to educate residents about recent and future changes in the solid waste and recycling programs (i.e. automated trash trucks, stickers, overflow trash bags, large trash bins)
- c. The City will market the event in the Biddeford Beat and on social media
- d. Volunteers are needed for various roles. The Commission will confirm volunteers at the August meeting. Coffee, donuts, and water will be provided for volunteers.

3.8. Video for tote placement curbside - Needs to be worked on still

- a. Public Works is looking for a volunteer spokesperson to help with an educational bin placement video.
- b. Member Gregg Shapiro volunteered to be a spokesperson for the educational video. Director Demers will connect with Member Shapiro.

3.9. Explain new bin for textile goods coming to recycling

- a. Public Works is in process of working with a vendor that will collect textile products. Member Burkett was instrumental in advocating for providing this service to Biddeford residents.
- b. This textile recycling program will provide a more environmentally friendly way to dispose of unwanted textiles, while having the potential to reduce the City's solid waste tipping fee
- c. There is no charge to have the textile recycling bin on site.
- d. More information will be provided next week.
- e. Director Demers and his team will work with Danica to market and educate the community about the new program.

5. Other Business

- a. Director Demers thanked Talya and Casella for their help answering calls and questions from residents about recycling.
- b. Talya shared that any missed recycling pick-ups can be reported through the new Casella app.

6. Commission Roster Changes if Needed

- a. There is one vacancy on the Commission.

7. Agenda for Next Meeting

- a. Email Chair Malon to request any items on a future agenda.
- b. Vehicle stickers for transfer station will be added to the agenda for next month's August meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.