

Newton Sustainable Materials Management Commission (SMMC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 26, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting via Zoom

Members in Attendance: Sunwoo Kahng, Chair, Meryl Kessler, Vice Chair (at 7:30 p.m.), Miles Smith (at 8:00 p.m.), Karen Slote, Carl Valente, Secretary, Steven Ferrey (at 7:45 p.m.), Vince McKay and Marian Rambelle.

Members Absent: Alan Gordon and Jim McGonagle, Commissioner, DPW, Ex-Officio.

Other Participants: Alison Leary, City Council, Waneta Trabert, Director, DPW Sustainable Materials Management Division (SMMD), Shara Ertel and Andrew Thompson, Newton South HS Teacher (Green Champion Program).

Improving Waste Reduction in Schools:

Andrew Thompson, a Newton HS South teacher and member of the Green Captains Program, joined the meeting and reported on the status of this program at Newton South high school:

- This stipend position is currently funded with MassDEP RDP grant funds;
- It is anticipated that funds/rebates from the Helpsy program will fund future years;
- The Green Captains positions are filled in all Newton Schools;
- Goals of the program include: expand recycling in the schools; begin composting where feasible; work with students interested in recycling/solid waste reduction; better coordinate recycling programs with the Facilities staff (custodians).

Ms. Kahng asked members of the SMMC to email her if they are interested in being on a sub-committee to work on waste reduction in the schools. Ms. Trabert will provide the Commission with available resources to assist in this effort. It was also suggested that Commission members identify examples of recycling/solid waste issues in the schools that may need attention.

Approval of July 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

On the motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Kessler, the Meeting Minutes of July 22 were approved, 6-0-2 on a roll call vote. Ms. Slote, Mr. Valente, Ms. Kessler, Mr. Ferrey, Ms. Kahng and Mr. Smith voting yes. Ms. Rambelle and Mr. McKay abstaining.

Ms. Kahng also pointed out that this is Ms. Slote's final SMMC meeting, as her term is ending, having served two terms. She thanked Ms. Slote, recognizing her many accomplishments and contributions to the Commission.

Discussion of Scope of Comprehensive Zero Waste Plan/Long-Term Plan:

Ms. Trabert reported that:

- One proposal was submitted in response to the RFP
- Mid-Atlantic Waste Consultants was the selected consultant
- The various tasks for the consultant were reviewed (also a handout)

- The work is expected to be completed by December 2025

SMMD Update and Q&A:

The SMMD update was deferred to a subsequent meeting.

Public Comments/Open Announcements:

- Ms. Kessler commented on how well the recent hazardous waste collection day was organized.
- In response to a question from Ms. Kahng, Ms. Trabert commented that the City is not currently collecting data on the food waste drop-off bins, but that Resy is developing an application/portal that will show this information.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the SMMC is scheduled for Thursday, October 24, 2024, to be via Zoom.

Documents Provided/Discussed at Meeting:

1. *Zero Waste Plan RFP*
2. *Long-Term Materials Management Plan tasks (MSW Consultants 2024).*
3. *July 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes.*