

Newton Sustainable Materials Management Commission (SMMC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 8, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Online Meeting

Members in attendance: Sunwoo Kahng, Chair, Marian Rambelle, Vice Chair, Carl Valente, Secretary, John Lewis (left the meeting at 8:38 p.m.) Steve Ferrey, Karen Slote, Miles Smith, Seth Parker (joined the meeting at 8:07 p.m.).

Members absent: Meryl Kessler, Robin Maltz, Jim McGonagle, Commissioner, DPW, Ex-Officio.

Other participants: Alison Leary, City Council (joined the meeting at 7:11 p.m., left at 8:04 p.m.), Pam Wright, City Council (joined the meeting at 7:11 p.m., left at 7:32 p.m.), Waneta Trabert, Director, DPW Sustainable Materials Management Division (left the meeting at 9:13 p.m.), Alan Gordon.

Announcements:

Ms. Kahng asked if the SMMC would like to take a position on the so-called, nip bottle ban being considered in Newton. There will be a public hearing on this matter on September 21, 2021 that Ms. Kahng is planning to attend. Councilor Leary spoke in support of the ban as a tool for reducing litter.

Mr. Smith moved that the SMMC Chair be authorized to write a letter the City's Liquor Licensing Board, on behalf of the Commission, in support of the nip bottle ban. Mr. Ferrey seconded the motion. Approved unanimously 7-0 on a roll call vote. Ms. Kahng, Ms. Rambelle, Mr. Valente, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Ferrey, Ms. Slote, Mr. Smith voting yes.

Mr. Kahng informed the Commission that the Blue Ribbon BBQ Restaurant is using polystyrene containers, which have been banned in Newton. Ms. Kahng will contact the Health and Human Services Department and ask them to contact Blue Ribbon to inform them of the ban. Mr. Gordon also noted that he contacted the City to bring to its attention that Sol Azteca Restaurant is also using polystyrene. A City Inspector will follow-up with this restaurant.

Planning for SMMC Report:

Ms. Kahng led a discussion of the Commission members regarding the SMMC's draft Report on Residential Curbside Waste Management. There was a lengthy discussion regarding how to present the recommendation regarding a City funded curbside organics collection program. Mr. Lewis shared a graph on how a more aggressive organics program would impact the City's trash disposal tonnage.

Next Steps:

Ms. Kahng will send the Commission members a Word version of the latest report draft, for their edits and comments. Edits and comments should be sent to Ms. Kahng only by no later than Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

Public Comments:

There were no additional public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the SMMC is scheduled for Thursday, September 23 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Documents provided/discussed at meeting:

- 1. Draft Report on Residential Curbside Waste Management, Newton Sustainable Materials Management Commission, (ver. 10, undated).*
- 2. Mr. Lewis' graph on the impact a Citywide organics collection program could have on trash tonnage.*