

Newton Sustainable Materials Management Commission (SMMC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 28, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Online Meeting

Members in attendance: Sunwoo Kahng, Chair, Marian Rambelle, Vice Chair (left meeting 7:40 - 8:35 p.m.), Carl Valente, Secretary, Steve Ferrey (joined the meeting from 7:40-7:50 p.m.), Meryl Kessler, Robin Maltz, Miles Smith, Karen Slote and Alan Gordon.

Members absent: John Lewis, Jim McGonagle, Commissioner, DPW, Ex-Officio, Seth Parker.

Other participants: Alison Leary, City Council (joined the meeting from 7:12-8:25 p.m.), Waneta Trabert, Director, DPW Sustainable Materials Management Division, Harry Sanders (left meeting at 8:30 p.m.).

Introductions:

Alan Gordon was welcomed as a new member of the SMMC.

Upcoming Meetings:

Due to the November-December holidays, the SMMC rescheduled its next two meetings for:

- Tuesday, November 16
- Monday, December 13

Ms. Kahng also conveyed that she was trying to arrange speakers from Black Earth and the City of Cambridge for the November meeting.

Approval of September 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

On the motion by Robin Maltz, seconded by Meryl Kessler, the Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2021 were approved 7-0 on a roll call vote. Sunwoo Kahng, Marian Rambelle, Carl Valente, Meryl Kessler, Seth Parker, Alan Gordon and Karen Slote voting yes.

Review of draft SMMC Report and Vote:

Ms. Kahng led a discussion of the Commission members regarding the SMMC's draft Report, *Setting the Path to Zero Waste: Recommendations on the Future of Curbside Waste in Newton*, version 24. A few non substantive questions/comments were raised.

Ms. Rambelle moved that the SMMC accept the Report, *Setting the Path to Zero Waste; Recommendations on the Future of Residential Curbside Waste Management in Newton*, version 24, as presented (with the Chair to make non substantive edits/corrections). A roll-call vote was taken: Mr. Valente, yes with the exception of the biweekly trash collection recommendation; Ms. Slote, yes; Mr. Gordon, yes; Ms. Maltz, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Ms. Kessler, yes; Ms. Rambelle, yes; Ms. Kahng, yes. The motion was approved.

Ms. Kahng will send Commission members a final version of the report. Ms. Kessler will draft a cover/transmittal letter for the Report.

Timeline of Next Steps:

Ms. Kahng reported that Green Newton will sponsor a forum through the Newton Free Library on December 2, 2021 (Zoom) on moving to zero waste in Newton. Speakers will be: Kirstie Pecci from the Conservation Law Foundation, Ms. Trabert, SMMD and Ms. Slote and Ms. Kahng from SMMC. The recently approved SMMC Report: *Setting the Path to Zero Waste*, will be presented at the forum.

The SMMC agreed to distribute the Report to the Mayor/Mayor Elect, Jonathan Yeo, Newton CAO, and City Council members prior to the December 2 forum.

Councilor Leary suggested to the SMMC that it present the Report to the Public Facilities Committee of the City Council at its January 2022 meeting. Councilor Leary will put the SMMC on the docket.

Ms. Kahng reported that Green Newton has begun a Zero Waste Newton campaign and is collecting petition signatures to support funding to develop a zero-waste master plan.

Ms. Slote presented a draft presentation for the *Setting the Path to Zero Waste* report. Commission members made a number of comments and suggestions. Ms. Slote will email the draft presentation to the Commission members. Comments should be emailed back to her. The next draft of the presentation will be reviewed at the November 16 SMMC meeting.

October 2021 SMMD Update:

Ms. Trabert reported on the following:

- She has spoken with Mike Orr from the City of Cambridge and Ed Gilbert from the Town of Brookline regarding staffing for their solid waste departments. Each community has a solid waste department with more staff than that of the SMMD, however the responsibilities of the Cambridge and Brookline solid waste departments are somewhat different than those in Newton. Ms. Trabert will send a written summary of her discussions with these two communities to the Commission members.
- Ms. Trabert had a meeting with the Legal Department to discuss a private hauler recycling ordinance. MassDEP has also provided the City with guidance on this matter.
- Ms. Kahng asked how the mattress disposal ban would be implemented in Newton when the ban becomes effective in November 2022. Ms. Trabert responded that the existing ‘white goods’ program includes provisions for the City to collect mattresses for a fee or for residents to drop off mattresses at the City’s Rumford Avenue facility at no cost. The program will be an added cost to the City.

Black Plastic Takeout Containers:

This item was postponed.

Nip Ban Update:

The City's Licensing Commission has voted in support of this ban. It will now go to a public hearing on November 16 before the City Council. Ms. Kahng will write a letter in support of this ban, to be presented at the Hearing. The SMMC previously voted to support such a ban in Newton.

Public Comments:

Ms. Slote commented about a piece of equipment at the Whole Foods on Beacon Street that appears to support the processing of food waste. She will learn more about this equipment and report back to the Commission.

There were no additional public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the SMMC is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Documents provided/discussed at meeting:

1. *Draft Report: Setting a Path to Zero Waste: Recommendations on the Future of Residential Curbside Waste Management in Newton. Sustainable Materials Management Commission, (ver. 24, October 2021).*
2. *October 2021 SMMD Update.*
3. *Draft presentation for the Setting a Path to Zero Waste report.*
4. *September 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes.*