

Newton Sustainable Materials Management Commission (SMMC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 23, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Online Meeting

Members in Attendance: Sunwoo Kahng, Chair, Meryl Kessler, Vice Chair (arrived at 8:25 p.m.), Carl Valente, Secretary, Steven Ferrey, Marian Rambelle, Alan Gordon, Miles Smith, John Lewis and Robin Maltz.

Members Absent: Karen Slote, Jim McGonagle, Commissioner, DPW, Ex-Officio.

Other Participants: Waneta Trabert, Director, DPW Sustainable Materials Management Division, Shara Ertel, Sonya McKnight and Vince McKay.

Approval of January 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

On the motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Kahng, the Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2023, were approved 8-0 on a roll call vote. Ms. Kahng, Ms. Rambelle, Mr. Valente, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Ferrey, Mr. Smith and Ms. Maltz voting yes.

Zero Waste Updates:

Expanded Sustainable Packaging Ordinance-a proposed City Ordinance to eliminate the sale of certain single use plastic items:

- The proposed Ordinance has been docketed with the City Council.
- The Programs and Services Committee may take it up on March 22.
- It will then go to the Finance Committee and then the full City Council for consideration.
- It was reported that the Charles River Chamber of Commerce is generally supportive, but does not support the ban on black plastics (they have concerns it will be difficult to source an alternative take-out container) and the ban on single use water bottles (which are a significant revenue generator for small food establishments).
- It was noted that other communities that have banned single use water bottles have seen other single use beverages become widely available in their stores.

Private Hauler Proposed Ordinance-this proposed ordinance would require private haulers serving Newton establishments to automatically supply full recycling services in addition to trash collection.

- This proposed Ordinance has been docketed with the City Council
- It may be heard by the Programs and Services Committee on March 22
- Ms. Trabert noted that the current draft of the Ordinance provides for a phased-in approach, requiring cardboard recycling in the first year and full single-stream recycling beginning in year 2.

2022 Annual Report:

Ms. Kahng shared a draft of the 2022 SMMC Annual report. Commission members offered a number of edits and comments.

2023 Goals:

The Commission also discussed proposed goals (workplan) for 2023, including:

- Further exploration for implementing food waste collection citywide. Mr. Smith and Mr. Valente offered to participate in this effort.
- Greater collaboration between the SMMC, Recycling Committee and various like-minded community organizations.
- Looking for promotional opportunities to encourage residents to subscribe to the food waste collection program.
- Updating the City's Buy Recycled policy for City departments to purchase materials with recycled content and encouraging higher adoption.
- Studying opportunities to reduce and reuse construction and demolition debris. Mr. Smith offered to participate in this effort.
- Working with Newton Public Schools and school groups to establish more recycling and composting in schools.

Ms. Kahng will send a revised draft of the annual report and goals to SMMC members within a week. Further comments should be emailed to her. She would like Commission members to approve the final 2022 Annual Report at the March 2023 SMMC meeting.

SMMD Update:

Ms. Trabert reviewed the February SMMD update, dated February 17, 2023.

- In response to a question from Mr. Smith, Ms. Trabert commented that while there is interest in relocating the Goodwill trailer within the City, no suitable sites have been found.
- Ms. Trabert reported that there will be a latex paint collection day this spring, likely in mid-April.
- In response to a question, Ms. Trabert noted that automotive tires may still be disposed of with household trash, but residents disposing of tires at the Rumford Avenue will need to pay a \$5 fee to cover the disposal/recycling costs.
- Ms. Trabert commented that the mattress recycling program is going well with the recycling vendor with no noticeable increase in illegal dumping of mattresses.

Public Comments/Open Announcements:

- Ms. Rambelle encouraged SMMC members to attend the Massachusetts Recycling Conference on March 23.
- Ms. Kahng noted that there will be a MassDEP workshop on construction and demolition debris on March 15.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Next Meetings: The next meeting of the SMMC will be Thursday, March 23, 2023 via Zoom.

Documents Provided/Discussed at Meeting:

1. *January 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes*
2. *February 2023 SMMD Update, dated February 17, 2023*
3. *2021 SMMC Annual Report*
4. *Draft of 2022 SMMC Annual Report*