

Newton Sustainable Materials Management Commission (SMMC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 23, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Online Meeting

Members in Attendance: Sunwoo Kahng, Chair, Marian Rambelle, Vice Chair, Carl Valente, Secretary, Steve Ferrey (at 7:54 p.m.), Miles Smith, Meryl Kessler (at 7:30 p.m.), Alan Gordon, and John Lewis.

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

Other Participants: Alison Leary, City Council (left at 8:30 p.m.) Julie Malakie, City Council, Waneta Trabert, Director, DPW Sustainable Materials Management Division and Sonja McKnight.

Approval of May 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

On the motion by Alan Gordon, seconded by Sunwoo Kahng, the Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2022 were approved 6-0 on a roll call vote. Sunwoo Kahng, Marian Rambelle, Carl Valente, Miles Smith, John Lewis and Alan Gordon voting yes.

In Person Meeting:

The SMMC plans to hold its October 27, 2022 meeting in person, at the Library. The Chair will invite Mayor Fuller to attend the meeting.

SMMC Report Update:

Ms. Kahng led a discussion on the following:

- In response to a question regarding the SMMC's zero waste goal, Ms. Trabert explained that the SMMD is not able to promote the zero waste goal (i.e., setting numerical waste goals for 2030 and 2050) as adopted goals of the City, as they have yet to be endorsed by the Mayor.
- City Councilor Alicia Bowman has suggested to Ms. Kahng that the SMMC make a presentation/educational session for the full City Council. Ms. Kahng will follow-up with Councilor Bowman on this matter.

Plastics Reductions Update:

It was reported that the Brookline Town Meeting approved a by-law to ban certain single use plastic items including plastic floss, ear swabs, beauty aids that contain micro-beads or glitter, balloon sticks and nip bottles. It is unclear how this ban will be enforced.

The Newton Plastics Reduction Group plans to make a proposal in September for a City Ordinance to ban certain plastics.

It was reported that Susan Legere, who has introduced the concept of allowing restaurants to allow patrons to bring-your-own-container, has reported that a letter from the Health and Human Services Department clarifying this matter for restaurants has been delayed.

Announcements:

John Lewis reported that Green Newton will begin a campaign to support/publicize those restaurants that compost their food waste (e.g., Black Earth Compost) in order to try to drive business to these types of restaurants.

SMMD Update:

Ms. Trabert reviewed the June 2022 SMMD update, dated June 17, 2022, responding to a number of questions and comments from Commission members. She stated that the recycling cart sticker program is planned again for this summer. As was done last summer, teams will place educational recycling information stickers on residential recycling carts at curbside in several neighborhoods of the City.

In response to a question regarding any plans for a citywide educational mailer summarizing residential curbside recycling and trash, Ms. Trabert said that she prefers to do this via water bill inserts rather than as a separate mailing (which is very time-consuming). She will look into this for the future.

The paint swap shed at the Resource Recovery Center (Rumford Ave.) is now open. In addition, Ms. Trabert plans to hold a used paint collection event in the fall.

Public Comments/Open Announcements:

The September 22, 2022 meeting of the SMMC has been rescheduled to September 29.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the SMMC is Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Documents Provided/Discussed at Meeting:

1. *May 26 Meeting Minutes*
2. *June 2022 SMMD Update, dated June 17, 2022*