

Unity Area Recycling Center

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January 18, 2024

1. Bring Meeting to order: Meeting brought to order at 7:10 p.m.  
Meeting held at Thorndike Town Office
2. Board Members & Alternates Present:

Diana Hauser (Unity)	Michael Berry (Thorndike)
Phil Bloomstein (Freedom)	Eleanor MacMackin (Freedom-ALT)
Kip Penney (Knox)	Ross Nason (Dixmont)
Leigh Juskevica (Manager)	Jeri Roberts (Jackson-ALT)
3. Board Members & Alternates Absent:

Beth Soucie (Unity)	Jenny Tibbetts (Jackson)
Paige Ziegler (Montville)	Robert Hogg (Troy)
Don Pendleton (Dixmont-ALT)	Greg Falzetta (Thorndike-ALT)
Sharon Hibbard (Montville)	
4. Agenda Adjustments:

Eleanor would like to discuss Education and Outreach  
Phil said the Center's credit cards needed to be renewed
5. Approve December 21, 2024 Minutes:

a Motion was Made, Seconded and Approved
6. Manager's Report:

Town invoices were sent to member town offices via email and certified mail on January 10.  
We've had a couple of calls/questions, but no one seems outraged by the increase. Freedom called to see if they were going to get a second invoice because they expected it be higher!

Mike has been teaching me (Leigh) to do lots of fun stuff - ME/Fed 941 and unemployment tax, W2/W3, payroll.

We've had 239 visitors in the first two weeks of January.

We are open on Tuesdays again.

I did a ZOOM training session with Maine DEP on Tuesday. According to the DEP, we don't have to recycle alkaline batteries. There is so little to be recovered and they recommend tossing those into the trash. They have more trainings scheduled, which I plan to attend, along with Casey. With Jeff retiring in the next year, we'll need to have someone certified to take hazardous waste.

Jeff estimates we've given away 200-300 pounds of crushed glass during January. Most are using it for weight and one person is specifically using it for sandblasting.

What does it take to make a bale?

75-90 bags of film

9-10 boxes of OCC

100-110 bags of #2 natural plastic

60-75 bags of #1, 3-7 plastics

4.5-5.5 boxes of mixed paper or newspaper

4 cages/bins of tin/steel/aluminum

4 barrels of bottles/jars = 3/4 barrel crushed glass

Typically, 34-38 bales will fit in a tractor trailer

7. Policy Committee update:

No update.

8. Safety Committee update:

No update.

9. Plastics/Films Discussion update:

Eleanor & Ross both made comments

Ross looked at regional markets for films - "depressing".

Last moved at -40 a ton - used to be 1,000 a ton (dollars)

1 sliver of promising news - a manufacturing facility is opening up making composite materials. If they get off the ground - could open up a market.

If we keep taking it - storage is an issue/negative price to get rid of it/sorting

Some 'big-box' stores backhaul to a recovery mill; could reach out to see if there is a possibility there.

Committee (and entire Board) have a 3 month window to look at films. A decision to keep taking them or rejecting them will be made in April.

10. Agenda Adjustments:

Eleanor spoke of reaching out to educational facilities for education opportunities.

Also spoke of recycled materials used as art/creative mediums.

Phil spoke of renewing the Center's credit cards. He will take care of it at the bank.

Michael distributed info from revision Energy having to do with our solar panels.

(If interested in the handouts, please contact Michael.)

11. Wrap Up and Assignments:

More research on films - market availability

12. Adjournment:

a Motion was Made, Seconded and Approved to adjourn at 8:38 p.m.

13. Minutes Submitted:

Diana Hauser (Unity) UARRC Secretary

