



TOWN OF MOUNT DESERT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Thursday , May 16, 2019

TOWN MEETING HALL

Northeast Harbor

Members Present:

Phil Lichtenstein, Chair

Kathy Miller

Dennis Shubert

Ellen Kappes

Jesse Hartson

Sydney Roberts Rockefeller

Excused:

John Macauley

Warren Smith

Meeting convened at 1630

1. The agenda for the meeting included a discussion of the use of balloons and the care of turf (grass, lawns etc). After discussion the group concluded that the committee has an obligation to maintain a list or reference document to allow citizens to easily understand local implementation of sustainable best practices. Such a list would be intended to be available on the town website and available as a reference to inform citizens of changes that they could support to the benefit of the town and its surroundings. For example, distribution of balloons can be harmful to wildlife and is a form of litter. Another example is the town adopting organic environmentally sensitive turf care practices to not only protect the local environment but to also serve as an example for our citizens. The group supports the concept and will pursue.
2. Solid waste and recycling- Committee members continue to be hazy about proper disposal of household waste. Causing the confusion is the different messages from our recycling partner, Ellsworth, and what we do. The Town annual report does nicely outline present practices that are not widely known. Also, the term single sort appears to have different meanings in different context. We anticipate that the town will soon make a decision concerning whether or not the town will maintain the present solid waste flow or switch to two streams to Fiberight. The first stream would be non-recyclable household solid waste including compostables

and the second stream would be un-sorted recyclables. Southwest Harbor has been reported as choosing a single stream for all solid waste to Fiberight.

3. The committee expresses thank you to Climate to Thrive Zero Waste Group for its strong support of the town ordinances banning single use plastic bags and polystyrene containers.

The next meeting is June 13th at 1600. The committee will not meet during July or August except to address urgent issues.