

City of Charleston Green Team: August 17, 2021 Meeting Notes

Present: Emmett Pepper (chair), James Young, Rod Watkins, Ted Armbrecht, Justin Marlowe, Pam Nixon (advisory member), Tim Haapala (Charleston Sanitary Board) and Brent Webster (City of Charleston).

Absent: Linda Frame, Rod Watkins and Patti Hamilton.

I. Welcome

- Emmett Pepper called the meeting to order with no quorum.

II. Adopting the minutes from the July 20, 2021 meeting

- Adoption of the minutes was postponed due to a lack of a quorum.

III. History of the Hanna Drive / North Charleston composting facility- Tim Haapala, PE, of the Charleston Sanitary Board

- Emmett introduced the guest speaker, Tim Haapala, from the Charleston Sanitary Board. He informed the Board that Brent Webster, Justin Marlowe, Amy Parsons (Marshall University), Ted Armbrecht and Emmett recently toured the compost facility.
- From 1969 to 1994, the Charleston Sanitary Board took bio solids and deposited them into a sludge holding pond on the property.
- In 1997, a consent order was received from DEP due to contaminants that were found. DEP ordered CSB to remove and discard sludge.
- CSB entered into an Extended Voluntary Remediation Program.
- In 1999, the compost facility was commissioned but CSB had issues as soon as the facility opened and could not get the right mixture to make it Class A compost.
- CSB pays \$40 ton to landfill for bio solids. To keep compost facility running was \$150/ton.
- Produce 4,000 tons of bio solids a year. \$160k to landfill vs. \$500k for compost.
- 2006 decision was to cease operations. City of Charleston had interest to use facility for yard waste materials.
- There are no current permit in place for facility.
- City yard waste and excess dirt are currently deposited on the property.
- Facility is in ruins. Copper, motors, etc have been pillaged. No interest in getting back into the composting business due to the economics of it.
- Land use covenant is forever. Not sure what the constituents of concerns time frame is but **migration** is going to cease over time.
- Not sure what city can and cannot do at the current site.
- Pam: any current discharge from the property now?
 - i. Tim: ditches on both sides of the road that discharge from facilities go to lined pond on site. Goes into sewer system.
- Ted Armbrecht: Amy White makes a great impression that Marshall and City of Huntington will be doing first class composting.

- Tim: CSB looked at it purely from an economic standpoint. Standalone utility funded by rate payers. Would take a lot of work. Shell of building is bad, and equipment would have to be replaced.

IV. Updates

V. Composting generally- Justin Marlowe & Emmett Pepper

- Amy White is in the final stages of getting digester started and can produce compost in 5 days. Did not take up a large footprint either.
- Emmett offered to setup a tour of the Huntington facility.

VI. City Council Environment & Recycling Committee - Chair, John Kennedy Bailey]

- NSTR

VII. Energy- Emmett Pepper

- Energy bill that was recommended to save 25% of energy in city by 2030 passed in the City Council. Emmett will be helping to implement at Energy Efficient WV.

VIII. Minutes (continued)

- A quorum was now present. Emmett entertained a motion to approve minutes. James made a motion and Justin seconded. Approved.

IX. Communications - Linda Frame & Patti Hamilton

- Linda setup a green team gmail account. Charlestongreenteam@gmail.com. Will monitor the box.
- Following up with Power Park about recycling. Been referred to someone.
- Linda, Pattie and Emmett have been talking to the city about properly messaging recycling. Would like a robust set of recommendations. May end up getting feedback from everyone or do in a meeting and roll out over time.

X. Glass recycling update - Ted Armbrrecht

- Ted said that Amy White told him there was a person in Huntington taking recycled glass and finding use for it. Found out company just went out of business. In Ona, Target puts all of their glass into an empty truck. Going to try to get more information while in Vermont next week. State enacts a fee to producers of containers for paper, cardboard, plastic and maybe glass.

XI. Recycling at public events - Linda Frame

- Emmett recognized Rowan Zoeller for volunteer work over the last few years at Live on the Levee on Friday nights to help collect recyclables. Want to encourage that kind of volunteer spirit. She takes recyclables and checks bins for contamination. During performance she goes around to see if the bins are full and will empty them. She is asking for our help and City's help for events. Potential improvements include:

- Wants to make sure city is picking up recyclables that she is putting out to be recycled.
- Make sure the full bags of trash are removed in a timely manner. If they are full people will use the recycling bins instead.
- Make sure that all recyclables get picked up by the bins at the end of the night.
- Emmett said he can put out a call to seek volunteers through Green Team.
- Brent Webster said he has not had time to fully digest email from Emmett/Rowan. Will seek more information from the crews. She might be seeing bags go into the foreman's truck but will go into a recycling packer at the end of the night. Added 5 more recycling containers for multi-fest.

XII. Recycling facility update - Rod Watkins

- NSTR

V. Other business/announcements

- James provided update on conversation with Dennis Strawn about connecting communities and coordinating with.
- Justin asked about the appetite for recycling at city owned parks and facilities. Rowan talked about contamination in those cases and how they turn into trash cans.

VI. Next meeting: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 5:30pm

VII. Adjourn: Justin made a motion to adjourn and Ted seconded.