

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE RECYCLING COMMITTEE

- 1 Recycling the Recycling Bins - The Recycling Committee (RC) procured, arranged transportation, and handed out 3,000 slightly used recycling bins to the residents of Kingston at no cost. The estimated savings i.e. (bin value) $\$5.50 \times 3000 = \underline{\$16,500.00}$ The RC handing out the recycling bins at the Transfer Station which gave us an opportunity to promote recycling and observe first hand the large amount of material not being recycled. The Highway Dept generously provided transportation and the Transfer Station (TS) staff also helped distribute remaining bins.
- 2 RC applied for and received a grant for 2 new mercury signs to remind residents not to dispose of products containing mercury into the trash compacters or recycling area thus helps us stay in compliance with Mass State regulations mandating it's removal from the waste stream. The TS staff installed the new signs right in front of hoppers.
- 3 By attending SSRC (South Shore Recycling Cooperative) meetings regarding a SEMASS outreach program to "Keep Mercury from Raising" we were given a quantity of replacement HVAC thermostats to give out to residents in trade if they replace their old mercury ones. (at no cost) SEMASS also offered Kingston a free shed to collect mercury products such as florescent light bulbs.
- 4 RC got permission and posted recycling information in the last tax bills (at no cost).
- 5 RC applied for multiple grants successfully, such as recycling training classes, getting 6,000 flyers at no cost, and have devised a way to have them mailed out at no cost to the Town. One grant is still pending for outside recycling bins for our parks and recreation areas.
- 6 RC made multiple suggestions to update the signage for the Transfer Station's recycling area, directing where materials need to go. Although it still needs a lot of work we now have one sign that requests that cardboard is broken down and flattened cardboard so more can now fit in the compactor. We desperately need a compactor for cardboard to save money by capturing more material, as well as saving money by reducing the number of trips necessary for disposal. Also the plastic sign was

updated to reflect the fact that we can now take number 1-7 plastics to be recycled.

- 7 The town's website has been updated and enhanced significantly regarding recycling.
- 8 To raise awareness the RC has had several articles published in the news paper regarding recycling.
- 9 RC obtained a plethora of different recycling literature for the Town House information table and the Town Clerk's office. RC also handed out literature at town events. (at no cost)
- 10 RC procured can/bottle collection bin and commingle bin for the Town House break room. (at no cost)
- 11 RC developed a paper recycling program at the Kingston Elementary School which has taken about 50 tons of paper out of the waste stream this year so far and is teaching the next generation about sustainable living. As part of this initiative KES has signed up for the Green Team which provides teachers with resources that align with Massachusetts Department of Education Curriculum Frameworks for Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Science and Technology/Engineering.
 - Collected and donated recycling books and educational material for school library and teachers.
 - Applied for and received several DEP grants for free paper recycling container which was enough for every classroom and office. Also got two large recycling totes for the school's copy centers.
 - Applied for and received a grant from State Street Corp for 24 reused computers they donated to the school which was enough to upgrade all the first grade classrooms.
 - Got three recycling dumpsters for free from Abitibi that generates income for the PTO to fund school enrichment programs.

- 12 Attended monthly SSRC meetings, MassRecycle meetings and DEP events as well as recycling/solid waste training seminars and Multiple field trips to other town's recycling facilities to learn from their operations and staff.
- 13 The Recycling Committee has consulted several times with the most successful recycling operations around which is in Wellesley. We have met with its Director Gordon Martin and he reports that the number one most effective means of increasing our recycling rate and staying in compliance with state and federal laws is to hire a Recycling Coordinator. So, we researched other towns and found that the MassRecycle organization has compiled a very comprehensive study which lent its self to the development of a recycling coordinator job description. Today it has been presented to the Finance Committee and the Wage and Personal board to generate feedback. Mass DEP could potentially be a source of revenue to fund the position initially so we are investigating that avenue.
- 14 Investigating the particulars to work towards keeping Kingston in compliance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Waste Ban Regulation (310 CRM19.017) this law bans recyclable material i.e. paper, glass, metal, and plastic from going into the waste stream. A very important developments as related to the Green Communities Act is the stepped up enforcement by DEP. In addition they are also mandating that Semass conduct inspections of municipal waste.
- 15 The Recycling Committee has voted unanimously to support the updated Bottle Bill HB3515 as it will help to reduce the volume of material in the waste stream which will help to lower our disposal cost and help significantly with compliance with the waste ban regulations.
- 16 The Recycling Committee has presented the case and the Board of Selectman has unanimously voted to support the municipal resolutions to update the Bottle Bill and the Mass Recycles Paper Campaign.

Eugene W. Wyatt Jr
Chairman Kingston Recycling Committee