

Shepherdstown Recycling Task Force Public Comment Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 7, 2018
6:30 a.m.
Town Hall
DRAFT

1. Members Present: Chris Stroech – Chair, Lori Robertson, Shane Broadwater
2. Members absent: Elizabeth McGowen
3. Call to order – C. Stroech called Meeting to order at 6:30 a.m.
4. Approval of minutes-

C. Stroech – No new minutes to approve.

5. Visitors – Lillian Potter-Saum, Mark Everhart, Steve, and Savannah
6. Introduction:

C. Stroech opened by stating that the Task Force has been meeting for the last 6-9 months. We have reached out directly to the businesses in town, and are now having a formal public comment period. He explained the proposed recycling ordinance, and how the TF researched ordinances all cross the country. This ordinance pertains to Shepherdstown town limits. The TF will meet at least one more time after the input gathered here. The TF will then make a recommendation to Public Works; it will then go to the town attorney, and then to Town Council. Regarding this meeting, we have received 4 emails in favor of the proposed ordinance. Some of the emailed comments asked if plastic trash bags were restricted? – no, does it pertain to retail and carryout? -yes, water bottles and Keuring? – no, retailers outside of town? – no. (we have met with Shepherd and they are already using recyclables for carryout.) has there been a cost analysis done? – not a formal one, but we have reached out to the businesses and will provide a viable list of resources.
7. Public Comment –

Lillian – would like to see plastic bags that are already in the system being able to be used. Maybe the SBA could help out with recycling stations that house plastic bags for people to reuse.

C. Stroech – we have also looked at possible pick-up/drop-off sites for cloth bags for those who don't come to town with any. We would like to see an initial purchase of cloth bags by the corporation to be distributed to

businesses, and then have boxes located at the visitor's center/library/town hall, etc. These boxes would hold reusable bags to take one or leave one. Many people have excess bags in their cars/home that could be dropped off in these boxes for others to share. It can be marketed on through the visitor's center and newly formed SBA (Small Business Association).

Coffee cups – many are a blend of paper and plastic/foam materials. There are many restaurants that are using a blend, and there is an extended time frame to switch over.

Lillian – how does enforcement work?

C. Stroech – the general feeling is that peer pressure will prevail once instituted. If someone complains that there is non-compliance, then a call or visit will take place to chat about the problem first. Everyone is a neighbor. A response will be complaint driven.

Lillian – some people need to use a straw.

L. Robertson – yes. It is recommended that they be made of a material that breaks down, and to only give a straw when requested. We have also been approached by a business to do large orders for smaller businesses in town to help all involved keep costs down.

This TF, with the help of those businesses in town that have already made the switch, will compile a list of distributors for alternative packaging/straws/bags.

**C. Stroech – if there are no objections, move to adjourn 7:05 a.m.
None noted.**

Draft Minutes Respectfully submitted by Lori Robertson