

Rye Recycling Education Committee Minutes for Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Members attending meeting: John Provencher, Joan Provencher, & Helen Huffman.

Called meeting to order at 6:30pm.

No minutes from August. Meeting was canceled due to not enough for a quorum.

Discussed the situation with the Swap Shop. Passed out the email from Wyatt, to read, telling about the meeting with Dennis. The letter reads:

“Hi John,

I am going to be out of town on business tomorrow night. Sorry about that! Our consulting business is super busy, and I am traveling frequently right now. To my ideas regarding the Swap Shop:

1. Start a Rye “virtual Swap Shop” via sites like Neighbors **Nextdoor** and like **Buy Nothing** on Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/pg/BuyNothingProject/about/?ref=page internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/BuyNothingProject/about/?ref=page_internal)
2. Promote these as first options for anyone wanting to donate or find used goods AND use them as an online merchandising sites for the Rye Swap Shop by featuring selected donated items. (See below.)
3. Close the physical Swap Shop to unsupervised drop offs (as in, lock it when it isn’t open for business). Don’t allow it to be open and unsupervised and a “dumping ground” for items that won’t be adopted/shouldn’t be dropped off.
4. Have items that people want to put up for adoption be accepted/rejected by the Transfer Station staff as donors propose to drop them off. Use acceptance standards that mirror those of Goodwill, Salvation Army, etc. Anything that doesn’t meet the standards gets rejected – the owners can either keep it and list it themselves on the **Buy Nothing** site or **Neighbors Nextdoor** or agree to dispose of it right then and there. Items that are accepted are placed in the Swap Shop.
5. Have the Recycling Education Committee members/volunteers set up/merchandize the donated good in synchronization with dates on which the Swap Shop will be open.
6. Only open the Swap Shop periodically (once per month, once every two weeks, etc.), promote open dates online via **Buy Nothing** and **Neighbors Nextdoor**, and post/merchandise pictures of “choice stuff” that will be available during the next upcoming opening to stimulate demand.
7. If possible, staff the open dates with RREC/community volunteers to help coordinate adoptions.
8. After each opening date is completed, clear the Swap Shop out completely: unadopted items are either taken (or picked up) by a nonprofit or discarded. Given the screening that is proposed above in step #4, most of these items by definition would be of interest to Goodwill, Salvation Army, etc. We could arrange a rotating schedule on which these organizations would come pick up the remaining items. Failing that, RREC volunteers

might agree to either take these items to one of these nonprofits or assist the Transfer Station employees in discarding them.

9. Repeat.

I think these steps would reduce the volume of unsuitable items brought to the Swap Shop, increase the quality of what is on offer at the Swap Shop, stimulate demand, and adoption rates. I would like to see what others on the Committee think about this approach and if they might have suggested improvements.

Your thoughts? – Wyatt”

Committee thought his ideas were good and we would discuss it with him more in depth at the next meeting.

Helen feels that the Swap Shop should be open no more than twice a week. Possibly one day during the week and on Saturdays. The rest of the committee agreed. We said we would discuss it further with the full committee before sending any correspondence to Dennis.

Helen told us about a place in Durham that takes clothes and remnants of cloth. Joan said she would inquire about it and see if they would be able to come down to the Swap Shop and take all clothing that is put in the bin instead of throwing it the pack.

New Business

We have another resident that is interested in joining our committee, Kristine Wallace. Joan talked to her and she said she couldn't make this meeting, but she would come to our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 7:15.

Respectfully submitted,

John Provencher

“Recycle; Keep it out of the Landfill.”