

**SAUGATUCK  
TOWNSHIP**

**2020 ADVISORY TRI-COMMUNITY RECYCLING AD HOC COMMITTEE  
AGENDA  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021 – 2:00 P.M.**

This public meeting will be held using Zoom video/audio conference technology due to the COVID-19 restrictions currently in place.

Join Zoom Meeting (one click):

Join online by visiting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2698572603>

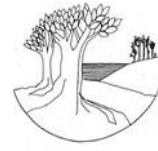
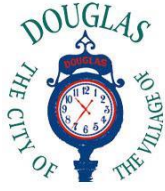
Join by phone by dialing:

**(312) 626-6799 -or-**

**(646) 518-9805**

Then enter “Meeting ID”: **2698572603**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT (LIMIT 3 MINUTES)** *Use the “raise hand” button in the participants screen in the Zoom interface or enter \*9 if you are calling in by phone to raise hand.*
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
  - A. **November 23, 2020**
5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
7. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Election of officers for 2021**
    1. **Chair**
    2. **Co-chair**
    3. **Secretary**
  - B. **Review 2020**
  - C. **Discuss 2021 goals**
  - D. **Battery containers**
  - E. **Twice a month pick-up**
8. **NEXT STEPS**
9. **PUBLIC COMMENT (LIMIT 3 MINUTES)** *Use the “raise hand” button in the participants screen in the Zoom interface or enter \*9 if you are calling in by phone to raise hand.*



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10. **ADJOURN**

PROPOSED Minutes  
2020 Advisory Tri-Community Recycling  
Ad Hoc Committee Meeting  
November 23, 2020

1. Call to Order by Chairperson Lewis at 11:16 via Zoom video/audio conference technology due to the COVID-19 restrictions currently in place.
2. Attendance  
Present – Saugatuck Township: Daniel DeFranco  
Saugatuck City: Garnet Lewis  
Douglas City: Ronna Alexander, Cathy North, Demetrhea Terrien  
Absent: Mark Epstein, Patrick Stewart, Linda Escott, Barry Johnson
3. Approval of minutes from 10/27/20 – moved by DeFranco, second by Alexander.
4. Approval of Agenda – moved by Alexander, second by DeFranco
5. Unfinished Business – none
6. Public Comment - none
7. New Business  
Jack Brown – Republic Services  
Lewis sent questions from committee prior to meeting with Brown.
  - A. *When will the delivery of yellow bags stop in the Township and will there be communication from Republic to residents on why they no longer receive them? (Knowing this will help us know what needs to be communicated from the TCRC perspective.)*  
Brown states the bag program is no longer being offered as of 12.1.20. Residents serviced by Republic have the option to call to get recycle carts delivered. Residents of the Township were recently notified by phone blast. Lewis suggests we should also send out via mail.
  - B. *If it is unlikely that Republic will notify customers of the status of the yellow bag program, is Republic comfortable with the tri-communities moving ahead with a public announcement communicating the termination of the yellow bag program? The TCRC finds this to be a top priority given the level of confusion that continues to surround the yellow bag program.*  
Ronna questions how many Township residents have requested a cart and Brown is uncertain at this point as all requests go through call center. Metrics are tough due to the vast number of calls received. As of first of year Brown will know the exact number based on number of residents on the route. The rates will not change based on the number of enrolled as it is a fixed number of \$16.50/quarter for open market cycle. Bins provided at no cost for bi-monthly pick-up.
  - C. *The Tri-Community Recycling Committee is interested in launching a “Back to Basics” recycling initiative with the aim of increasing the amount of material successfully recycled in our communities. Our focus in this initiative will be to educate the public on the limited materials that can be recycled and how to properly prepare these materials to avoid issues of contamination. If **they** only collected 3 categories of recyclables, what would they be (considering their ease of recycling, processes in place to handle/sort at the MRF and market demand)? The intention of this question is to determine what we should include in our 'Back to Basics' recycling effort.*

Jack shared website: [recyclingsimplified.com](http://recyclingsimplified.com)

1) fiber: paper/cardboard (most simple and most marketable), 2) plastics 1 & 2 (empty it, clean it, don't bag it) 3) metal containers.

-Know what to throw..."when in doubt, throw it out"

-labels and caps on bottles do not need to be removed

-cardboard must be flattened

-paper is 100% recyclable unless it is glossy or has waxy coating

*D. Knowing our strategy and goal, do you have any additional recommendations that could improve the TCRC's "Back to Basics" recycling initiative?*

Eliminate plastic bags, bubble wrap, any item with double-material (mailing envelope w/ bubble wrap. (any plastic you can easily poke your finger through is NOT recyclable). Ken Freestone points out that plastic bags are not recyclable through Republic system but ARE recyclable at Meijers etc. Any initiative by communities to reduce contamination will be helpful to landfill overuse.

*E. Is Republic Services willing to send a one-page "here's what can be recycled" leaflet to all their customers?*

Republic not sure they would send it out, but would certainly work with us on artwork etc. for us to send out.

*F. What community-based education programs does Republic Services provide and/or host?*

Recyclingsimplified.com is where Republic has vested their efforts. Great classroom tool with resources at various grade levels for teachers to utilize in the classroom (videos, lesson plans to download). Jack agrees to Garn's request to share these resources on the newly created Facebook page. Refer to "what can be recycled" on the Republic page. Jack will share for us to post on FB page. Glass not accepted at Holland Transfer Station currently. Ken and Jack will follow up on this for clarification.

*G. How can we consistently and inexpensively communicate what can be recycled? Markets change and we (customers and Gov.) need to be updated on materials?*

Most consistent way is to get constituents to refer to listing on webpage. Electronic is easiest as it is the most simple to change.

*H. What is/are the best ideas you have ever seen for engaging customers? Anywhere in the world.*

Many communities do mailers but quickly outdated. Jack not sure stickers work but will look into that idea.

a. Reviewed logos created by Rona Alexander: 1) Tri-Community Recycling Initiative; 2) Back to Earth (for composting program); 3) Back to Basics.

b. Next Steps:

Dec. 8, 10:00 Recycling Partnership zoom to discuss educational co-hosting partnerships. National non-profit organization.

Garn has presented survey results to all three municipalities. All were highly complimentary and appreciative of efforts. The charge of the committee expires at the end of the year but Garn has requested that the committee remain in place through 2021.

Articles for the Commercial Record have been lined up by Ronna Alexander.

I. Public Comment – none

J. Committee comments:

Daniel suggests we use the term “avoidance” in the Back to Basics program for contamination prevention. Also suggests moving forward with public service announcement on the elimination of the yellow bag program. Demetrhea requests clarification on bi-monthly v monthly pick up and container size. Residents in the township have received bins and they are being picked up bi-monthly.

K. Adjournment – moved by Alexander, second by Terrien.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy North