



Meeting Minutes 08/16/2017 with Mark King, Environmental Specialist, Maine Department of Environmental Protection

In Attendance: Anna Poe, Pat Lundholm, joined by Andy Dorr at noon

This was an information packed meeting with Mark, which started with a tour of the transfer station. Aside from composting, as we walked in the lower part where the burn pile is, he had the following ideas:

1. He saw the trap pile as an untapped gold mine.
 - a. Someone on the mainland takes the traps and turns them into chairs.
 - b. Mainland craftsmen are also making glass topped coffee tables from them, much as the old wooden ones were.
 - c. They could be taken apart, and the larger pieces used to build 1 yard home composting bins.
2. He spotted discarded buoys in a tote and said they were salable as well.

Composting: He suggested a three-pronged approach, all of which would be more likely to succeed if we start small. By involving the school, the home composter, and the at-large community (at the landfill, with minimal extra work for staff), without making any of them a huge project, we would be more likely to succeed.

1. At the transfer station:
 - a. We would use the discarded xactic totes that are already at the transfer station and perfect for an aerated setup that makes compost reasonably quickly. Because of the aeration, it does not have to be turned. The food scraps and feedstock (other materials added to make the compost do its work) get mixed before they are added to the xactic. We would invite a small number of people (20 households) to participate with saving their pre-consumption food waste and bringing it to the landfill. There are 2 piece containers sold – small for the house, larger with screw top for outside. Note: If we don't want to purchase them, recycled kitty litter buckets work. If, in the first year, we signed up 20 households, who promised to only put in the appropriate waste, we could handle that at the transfer station with minimal effort on the part of the transfer station staff. These households would need to be committed to full participation, which would include checking the temperature of the pile (needs to be 130°F), and could be taught how to mix additions of food and manure to the composting container.
 - b. When we succeed with the 20, we could then add more people with the same conditions, or start to expand what gets put in it (post consumption, such as lobster bodies, and meats and fats) or add a business or restaurant or Eldercare.
 - c. See additional notes below for more details on xactic bin setup.
2. At the school:
 - a. Start with an audit of the waste (weight).
 - b. Have the kids design/build their composter.
 - c. Revitalize the garden?



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- d. At this time, Waste Watchers committee suggests focusing on a home composting and municipal composting effort - as the school is a larger and more in-depth project, we feel that it would be wise to let the school adjust to the many changes it is undergoing before attempting to launch school composting/gardening.
3. Home composters:
 - a. There are already many in town, who could probably move happily off the black bins into the 1 yard lobster trap bins Mark is suggesting. (One of the nice things about trap wire bins is no turning so they are easy. He recommended Brooks Trap Mill as a source for trap wire bins.)
 - b. Home composting without manure takes longer to break down, but it eventually does.
 - c. Education for the whole community can take place at one or many sessions. There are many resources for this – Mark is key, and willing to come, to educate, to help solve problems.

Next level(s):

1. EcoMaine has a 6 yard container (6 times as big). If we can get our smaller operation up and running, perhaps we could upgrade eventually. (Has blower, and there was mention of grant money.)
2. Yard waste can be done, will take longer and won't be so perfect. (I.e. Would be chunky and need sieving.)

Additional notes:

Mark suggested being clear about what we would do with our finished compost - he recommends selling it; we would like to make it available to the people who are participating, so perhaps ultimately we can do both.

Home compost bin: One 12' section of 4' lobster trap wire will make a circular bin that would hold 1 yard of compost. Taking apart the thrown away traps, and using the long, uncut panels (2 per trap), would take 9 back panels to make one bin. The benefit of the traps is the aeration all around (unlike the old black tubs), as well as keeping the creatures (rats, raccoons) out. Would the trap shop want to make these when they have down time? Or could we figure out a way to offer the Brooks Trap Mill bins at reasonable cost?

Xactic bin: The way this works is by aeration. A pattern of 1 ½" pipe is laid in the bottom of the exacta, with an air source coming from outside (bouncy house type pump, available at Home Depot). Holes are drilled in the pipe at a 45° angle, and then the pipe system is covered with protective cloth to keep the holes from filling. The air is on for 5 minutes every hour for 12 hours, and rests at night.

The most important key to success is having a steady source of enough manure. A 2:1 ratio is required to make this happen easily and quickly (6-8 weeks with aeration) and successfully. There are mainland sources: Jim Gerra at Midcoast or David St. Laurent could help get horse manure for free. On island: we



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have potential sources of goat bedding and horse manure. Volume wise, for 1 year, 20 people (the ideal startup), we would need 3 full pickup truck loads.

Chipping - chippers are prohibitively expensive and chips trap nitrogen too much to be added to the food scrap compost mix. But if we had someone coming to the island with a big chipper, they could shred cardboard between chipping if we wanted to have shredded cardboard to add to the mix.

Mark suggested a goal of doing an open house in the spring. We should think about what we would want to do with finished compost - offer it to the participants and sell any extra?