

To: Members, Haines Friends of Recycling

Fr: Melissa Aronson, Chairperson

October 14, 2020

Re: HFR annual meeting

2020 has been quite the year. Like many other organizations, the pandemic has effected our programs and our annual meeting. This email is designed to give you information about how we are handling the annual meeting and also to give you a brief overview of the year's events.

First of all to the annual meeting. We are meeting electronically with the following schedule of events:

October 14: Annual report to the members (this email!)

October 15: Electronic ballot sent to members to vote on election of board members and board officers, and a vote to approve changes in our By-laws.

October 22: Electronic ballots due on or before October 22.

October 26: Zoom meeting from 5:30-6:30 for an open discussion between members and the board of HFR and an announcement of the results of the voting. The zoom link will be sent to you a day or so before the meeting.

Thanks to Ron Jackson on our board for diligently going through our by-laws, originally written in 1999, to make recommended updates. There are two significant changes. One is to move our fiscal year from the original July 1 to June 30 schedule to the calendar year (January 1 through December 31). This change in our fiscal year makes it align better with our annual operations. The second change is to simply update our communication methods to include social media in the mix of ways we communicate. Both the original by-laws and revised by-laws are available on our Facebook page (facebook.com/HainesFriendsOfRecycling) or our webpage (haines_recycle.org) for your full review. The board encourages a "yes" vote to approve the changes.

This year, because of the pandemic, many of our regular events were cancelled: Earth Day, the Plant Sale, recycling at the Bike Race, the Fishermen's BarBQ, the Southeast Alaska State Fair, Fourth of July, and any number of special events. We also suspended in-town collection of recycled materials. We missed seeing everyone at those events and hopefully will see you in 2021.

We were able to provide many of our regular services. Our 24/7/365 collection of recyclable materials at the Recycling Center continued. We were able to hold our electronic recycling at a later date than normal.

Thanks to a grant from the Chilkat Valley Community Foundation, we were able to improve signage at the Recycling Center, install and repair barriers, and make repairs and improvements to the collection area.

Recycling internationally has been affected by a number of global events. We saw the effect here locally in our decision to no longer collect low-grade paper. The international market has completely collapsed for low-grade paper and it was only being sent out to be land-filled in the Pacific Northwest. We waited and agonized over the decision to stop collecting low-grade but ultimately had to make the hard decision.

We are helping some local businesses and services work on waste reduction.

Haines Compost is a great way to safely turn your compost into fertilizer without having to deal with bears yourself; see hainescompost.com for more information.

Betsy Van Burgh started her Refillery this summer. She sold items at the Farmers Market that can be refilled using containers customers brought in, hence less plastic and bottles going into our landfill and oceans. For more information how you can get refills during the off-season, call or text 907-314-0344.

We also have a Scrap Box at the Recycling Center where people can buy left over construction materials, etc.; the Scrap Box is open Th./Fri. 9-12 and Sat. 10-2.

How can you help HFR be more effective? Encourage friends and family to recycle and to become members of HFR. Think of ways to reduce your household or business waste stream. Help people you meet at the Recycling Center if they have questions about how to self-sort their recycling. Make sure to carefully clean and sort your own recyclables. Make sure to NOT leave us food-contaminated materials that attract bears. Volunteer.

We thank you for your continued support of Haines Friends of Recycling as we promote recycling and waste reduction in the Chilkat Valley.