

SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Meeting minutes for March 2, 2015

Present: Jim Tessier, Phil Lytle, Donald Webber, Joel Moulton, Connie Carignan, Bud Moynahan (Bud left shortly after start of meeting)

Guest – Planning Assistant, Kate Pelletier

1) Review of Waste Recycling and Disposal Ordinance

The committee, with help from the Planning Assistant, initiated a detailed review of the proposed changes that were presented at the 2/17/15 meeting. It was agreed that much of the content was not substantive enough to warrant approval at town meeting and could be controlled by the Public Works Director / Selectmen via the Transfer Station Operation Manual. Kate will incorporate changes and provide copies for additional review at our next meeting.

2) Transfer station, Pay-to-throw, Kitchen food waste collection program

A) Pay-to-throw

Joel discussed a memo that he will be presenting to the Town Manager addressing the first full year of Pay-to-throw. It included the amount of reduction in MSW and the Pay-to-throw bag revenue. He is still working on recycling volumes and will provide to committee when available.

B) "Sharps"

Jim presented samples of sharps collection containers that could be purchased by the town and sold at the transfer station as well as information provided by the state – Safe Disposal of Household Medical Sharps. It was decided to ask the Town Clerk to add the information to the transfer station section of the town web site and not sell the containers at the transfer station.

3) Next meeting – March 17, 2015 at 5:00 pm at town garage

Minutes reviewed and approved at 3/17/15 meeting.

Signed and submitted,


Jim Tessier

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

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Safe Disposal of Household Medical Sharps

Each year, thousands of Mainers use millions of syringes, pen needles and lancets or “sharps” to control medical conditions like diabetes, arthritis and allergies. Stockpiling used sharps in the home or improper disposal by throwing them in the trash or flushing them down the toilet puts you and your family, janitorial and solid waste staff, and the general public at risk for accidental and painful needle sticks that can lead to infection, tetanus and transmission of diseases.

If you or a loved one use sharps at home, you are allowed under Maine law to dispose of them in your household trash if you take the proper precautions to secure and label the container before doing so.

Homemade Household Sharps Containers



Make your own sharps container using a heavy puncture-proof plastic bottle – like for laundry detergent. Place sharps in the bottle and when it’s full, seal it with the cap and heavy-duty tape, mark “Do Not Recycle” and simply place in your household trash.

There are also products for sale – usually at your local pharmacy – that make containment convenient and that can be thrown away in your regular trash when full.

Needle Clipping Devices



Devices that clip the needle off a syringe allow you to throw the remaining piece in your household trash. When the device is full, wrap it in heavy-duty tape and throw in the trash too.

Maine Residents: [Request a free needle clipping device](#), courtesy of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Becton, Dickinson and Company, and Rite Aid Pharmacy.

Designated Sharps Containers



Rigid home sharps containers with locking lids may be placed in your household trash when full. While these containers may be available for purchase at your local pharmacy, some manufacturers may also provide them free of charge through patient support programs.

Mail-Back Sharps Containers/Envelopes



Pre-paid mail-back containers or envelopes, available for purchase at your local pharmacy, are designed to be filled and mailed back to the manufacturer or manufacturer’s disposal partner for proper disposal.