

SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Meeting minutes for September 17, 2019

Present: Jim Tessier, Donald Webber, Corinne Carignan, Bud Moynahan, and Pam Mondschein

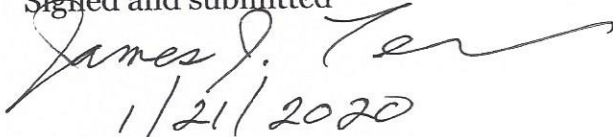
Meeting opened at 6:05 p.m.

1. Reviewed and approved June 18, 2019 minutes. Moved by Donald, second by Corinne. Approved: 5 – 0.
2. Public Comment – Wendy Gilbert stated she is interested in recycling and wanted to see what the committee does. She was encouraged to join the committee.
3. Transfer Station updates:
 - a. The Transfer Station was out of compost bags. Jim found Biobags in Florida. There are now 3 sizes available at the Transfer Station for free.
 - b. Tomorrow is Household Hazardous Waste Day
 - c. There is a market for all recycling materials except for miscellaneous paper, which is sent to Echo, Maine where it is incinerated and generating power.
 - d. Pay-to-throw program and the food waste collection program are going well.
4. Resolution of Household Hazardous Waste was considered by the Select Board, which decided to keep the current policy.
5. Earth Day 2019 Compost Bin Sale was not done this year as the purchase of the compost bins could not be completed in time. Last year no compost bins were sold. Plan to do the sale next year.
6. Transfer Station Survey – almost all the 13 responses were very positive (9 responders rated their experience as 5 out of 5 (great) and 4 responders rated it as 4 out of 5. Some suggestions include:
 - a. Continue to charge for discarding household appliances only. The other large components should be free.
 - b. Open more often and have accommodating hours
 - c. Make hazardous waste free to get rid of. Otherwise people will just dump it on the ground/water
 - d. Find more ways to recycle more plastic. More hours. Encourage/promote composting at homes – cost savings for home and town. Separate trash, recycling, and food at schools and public places. Encourage businesses to do the same.
 - e. Open the garage doors more often. Have the station employees sort the plastic instead of people putting the wrong items in the assorted plastic bins.
 - f. Have better signs for the separate plastics. Offer purple bags for sale at the transfer station. Make future surveys electronic!

- g. More signage would be helpful for which plastic goes where.
 - h. Allow paper towels in food waste collection! Try single stream recycling – more convenient for everyone.
 - i. You used to provide “compost dirt” in the spring – would like to see more of that.
 - j. Have bigger swap shop. Ban single use plastic bags – encourage composting – teach people to cook and use food more completely.
7. Updating the Transfer Station page of the town website:
- a. A diagram of the Transfer Station with locations noted of where to deposit the recyclables.
 - b. an explanation why single stream recycling is not used
 - c. Explain what happens with the materials recycled at the transfer station.
 - d. List the revenues accrued by selling “clean” recycled materials
 - e. Updates should be made to the SWRC web page, too.
8. Other business:
- a. Getting rid of brush & leaves within the current hours is difficult for older people. Opening the Transfer Station for longer hours is difficult.
 - b. Jim was asked by the Select Board to write a report on the status of the Transfer Station as they had heard that other towns were closing their recycling. Items to include in the report:
 - i. Annual cost savings and cost savings accrued over the 4 years the pay-to throw program has been in effect.
 - ii. The town is getting money for all of the recycled materials, except for miscellaneous paper.
 - iii. Food waste program is working well
 - iv. The towns that are closing their recycling had been using the single stream system, which meant they had to pay to get rid of their recycling. Instead, because our recycling is “clean”, our recycling is a source of revenue.
 - c. The Transfer Station should be “refreshed” by installing hanging signs denoting the recycling sections, having a large sign of the Transfer Station’s layout
9. Next meeting: December 17, 2019 at 6 p.m.
10. Motion to adjourn – moved by Pam, second by Donald. Approved 5 – 0.
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes reviewed and approved at January 21, 2020 meeting.

Signed and submitted


1/21/2020