

Meeting Minutes – Recycling and Solid Waste Committee (RSWC) –

8/30/2022

Attendees (Zoom meeting) – Meryl Mandell (Chair), Gary Bernhard (Recycling Coordinator), Gail Fleischaker, Tim Logan (minutes taker), Marla Killough, Peg Ross.
Potential applicants for membership: Andrea Rogers, Mary Glavin

1 - The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm (delayed from 7pm due to recent change on town Zoom protocols)

2 – For the benefit of the two attending potential members, Meryl reviewed general charge and operation of the committee. Gary reviewed his duties as Recycling Coordinator

3 - Minutes from 3/29/2022 RSWC meeting and the 1/14/22 and 1/17/22 contract sub-committee meetings were approved

4 – Status of Prior Action items:

A - Gary will continue to explore mattress recycle options and the possibility of getting 3-4 towns to work together on mattress and textile disposal/recycle options.
ON-GOING

B - Meeting with the school principal about recycling education is on hold until after a new hauler contract is signed. This item has been misstated. It should exclude the idea of recycling education. The meeting should be in regard to setting up composting at the school. **ON-GOING**

C- Gary will follow up with Amy Donovan at Franklin County on residential and school food composting. This is a duplication, really, of the goal in item B above.
ELIMINATED

D– Gary will contact the Select Board regarding setting up a bin for CMARK textile collection and discuss the idea of the optional book bin with Mary Anne. Gary will meet with the SB, possible on the 12th, to discuss. **DONE – SEE ITEM 7 BELOW**

E - Becky, Gail, Meryl, or possibly Gary will seek the Select Board's permission to negotiate a contract with Casella. **DONE**

F - Becky and Meryl will negotiate a short term disposal contract with USA until July 1. **DONE**

5 – Report on trash bag distribution: Bag distribution and shed staffing went very well this summer. We still have a good supply of bags but will review the on-hand quantity again in January. Gail suggested beginning the bag order process earlier in the year because of the delays we experienced in this and prior years. However, Gary pointed

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out that we already start the process 5 months in advance – and the “state mandated” bag vendors are extremely limited. Meryl reminded all who staff the shed to contact Gary if significant cash is in the box so that he can come pick it up.

6 – Report on solid waste contract – The Casella contract was finalized. Gary and Meryl did manage to get the cost reduced slightly. The diesel fuel cost escalator has likely kicked in but we have not yet seen the first accounting. There were no major problems with the startup. Any minor issues were resolved very quickly. Gary has found Casella personnel to be remarkably responsive to emails when issues come up and quick to resolve concerns. The contract is for 5 years with an additional year renewal option. Current cost per resident, per year, is \$182.

7 – Update on CMARK/BB-BS textile collection program - Gary completed these efforts and there is now a CMARK box located on lot O-32. The box will accept CLEAN and BAGGED clothing, shoes, blankets, towels, rags, curtains, etc. Gail will make a laminated sign to put on the bin as a reminder that items are to be clean and bagged. Gary asked to be contacted whenever anyone sees that the bin is full – until we feel that CMARK is demonstrating a reliable pickup schedule. Note that after November mattresses can no longer go to landfills or be burned!

8 – Report on April 23 Roadside cleanup with library – Tim manned the table behind Town Hall for this event and it went well. There was a steady stream of residents who helped pick up trash along our roads – all of whom enjoyed themselves and felt good about it. Steve Sullivan, from the Highway Department, collected the items in his truck.

9 – Other – Tim suggested that committee members keep an eye out for new technology and ideas that will help us constantly improve Town recycling capabilities. To this end, Gary stated that Susan Waite, DEP Regional Coordinator, conducts Zoom meetings which are quite informative regarding latest recycling news. These were monthly pre-pandemic but are now a bit more sporadic. Gary will email us when he is notified about these Zoom meetings. Meryl asked the Committee and Mary and Andrea about joining. The RSWC members agreed to support Mary and Andrea joining the RSWC, and both Mary and Andrea said they do want to join. Meryl to submit names to BOS for appointment to the Committee.

10 - Future action items:

A - Gary will continue to explore mattress recycle options and the possibility of getting 3-4 towns to work together on mattress and textile disposal/recycle options.

B – Gary will contact Triple T (a composting company), possibly others, re. setting up a school recycling program. Gary will get the specifics and send out an email with his

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findings. Meryl (or possibly Tim?), depending on Gary's findings, will arrange a meeting with the school principal.

D– Gail will make a laminated sign to put on the textiles bin as a reminder that items are to be clean and bagged

E – Gary or Meryl will check bag inventory in January to make sure we still have a sufficient supply.

F - Gary will email us about upcoming, informative Zoom programs by Susan Waite, DEP Regional Coordinator.

G – Meryl to submit Mary and Andrea's names to the Board of Selectmen for approval for them to join the RSWC.

11 - Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

- *Submitted by Tim Logan*