

Shutesbury Recycling and Solid Waste Committee Meeting

August 26, 2013

Members Present: Meryl Ann Mandell - Chair; Gary Bernhard- Recycling Coordinator; Gail Fleischaker, Steve Rice, Peg Ross

Old Business:

Minutes of April 9, 2013 meeting approved.

New Business:

Bulky Waste Day, June 2013. Gail provided a spreadsheet of costs and revenues. The day was successful in terms of community participation in recycling, but costs of the day exceeded income by \$1,489.10 before receiving revenue from the sale of metals. Allied Waste charged disposal fees of \$40 per mattress and \$40 per item of upholstered furniture, for a total of \$1,000. These itemized charges were not in the Allied contract. Gail will follow up with Becky to contact Allied Waste about rescinding the charges.

Gary stated the RSWC contribution to the town newsletter is ready. Meryl brought up for discussion if it would be possible to arrange for help with bulky waste items for folks who are unable or don't have the vehicle for transport. Volunteers with pickups? Small fee involved? Neighbor to neighbor? Gary will broach this subject in the newsletter and will provide Meryl's phone and email for a contact.

MRF and Covanta #'s from 2012. Gail provided a summary of Recycling and Trash tonnage which reflected % recycling, plus dollars earned/saved. Shutesbury recycled 37.85% of its total waste in calendar year 2012 and seems to be tracking at about the same rate for 2013.

Trash bag schedule for next year – thoughts on days and times. After discussion, it was decided that trash bag handouts would be scheduled for 2 hours rather than 3, after the first month. Evening hours will be from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Two handouts will be scheduled at the school on Friday afternoons from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m, or 2 – 4 p.m.

Illegal Trash/Dumping Bylaw. Meryl and Gary met with Fire Chief Walter Tibbetts, Police Chief Tim Harding, Steve Sullivan representing the Highway Department, and Becky Torres, Town Administrator, to discuss wording of a proposed bylaw to be sponsored/presented by the RSWC for discussion/vote at town meeting. The proposed bylaw pulled some language from a current Sunderland bylaw, with appropriate changes made accordingly, then was augmented by Shutesbury specific sections. Revisions and changes in wording were discussed by the RSWC. Changes will be made by Meryl and sent to the RSWC for review.

Amherst Household Hazardous Waste Day. Will be held at the DPW in Amherst on September 28, 2013. Because of a relatively high disposal fee for residents to participate, Gary suggested that in the newsletter we should encourage neighbors to partner with neighbors on cost sharing and transportation. If we have two workers at the

DPW that day, we may be able to organize Shutesbury vehicles to combine contents on site and share in the disposal fee. Also in the newsletter: people should call Meryl if the disposal fee is an obstacle to their participation.

Other:

Meryl stated that she followed up with Becky with her offer to assemble a Welcome package for new town residents that would include recycling and solid waste related and other town handouts and goodies. Meryl suggested that the Welcome package include a recycling bin, a recycling/shopping bag and the recycling handbook. The yellow trash bags would still be handed out separately as needed. Becky said that she and Town Clerk Leslie Bracebridge would assemble and distribute all Welcome packages, and declined the RSWC offer.

Meryl has submitted the FY 2013 RSWC annual report to Town Clerk Leslie Bracebridge.

Submitted by P. Ross