

## **Shutesbury Recycling and Solid Waste Committee**

### **Draft Minutes of December 13, 2011 Meeting**

Present: Gail Fleishaker, Ron Essig, Steve Rice, Meryl Mandell, Paul Vlach, Nancy Dihlmann, Gary Bernhard, Becky Torres, Arlene Miller

Absent: Karen Czerwonka

Minute Taker: Gary Bernhard

Meeting began at 7:10.

At this meeting the Recycling and Solid Waste Committee engaged in informal, preliminary discussions with three area waste/recycling haulers. Shutesbury's hauling contract expires at the end of FY 2012. The Town has received a DEP Technical Assistance grant from the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection which makes it possible for Arlene Miller to help us sort through the complexities of the bidding/RFP process with potential haulers.

Arlene set up the meetings with Waste Management, Allied Waste, and Amherst Trucking. The Committee generated a list of questions and concerns that we wanted the haulers to address:

1. Accurate and timely reports on tonnage of both trash and recyclables hauled. This is critical to our understanding of recycling rates.
2. What are the haulers' thoughts about single stream vs. dual stream recycling?
3. Sufficient advance notice of non-pickup due to weather or equipment failures.
4. Should there be designated collection points for problematic roads during the winter?
5. Clear process for dealing with non-compliance of residents (overweight, unclosed bags, recyclables in trash, etc.) and communication with the Town regarding non-compliance.
6. Meet at least once annually with Committee to talk about issues.
7. Inclusion of Bulky Waste Day hauling in the contract.

### **Waste Management – Dan DiTulio**

Waste management is a large, national company. WM will give us accurate and timely reports of waste and recycling tonnage. The company has its own recycling center but would haul our recycling to the MRF and our trash to Covanta. Mr. DiTulio seemed to indicate that WM favors single stream recycling and automated pick-up but said that manual pick-up and dual stream were certainly possible. WM has its own stickers, designed in concert with the Town to leave on trash or recycling of non-compliers. According to Mr. DiTulio, WM is big on communication with customers and would press for more than one meeting a year with Shutesbury people. WM (and the other two haulers we talked with in this meeting) is amenable to a fuel adjustment

clause in the contract to mitigate extreme fluctuations in fuel costs. WM could supply rollofts for Bulky Waste Day.

### **Allied Waste – Aaron Floreck, Dan Higgins**

Allied Waste is also a national company, but it has 165 employees in western Mass., based in Chicopee. According to Mr. Floreck and Mr. Higgins, safety and customer service are the most important goals of AW. Drivers report any problems with collections, breakdowns, non-compliance of residents to AW every collection. AW then sends a report to the designated person in the town. Mr. Floreck and Mr. Higgins were confident that the AW trucks could handle the winter weather in Shutesbury, thus reducing the need for central collection points in bad weather. AW, too, is familiar with single-stream recycling, and, like WM, does most single stream collection with automated equipment. AW can also supply rollofts for Bulky Waste Day and can also provide services such as monthly bulky waste collection. AW can also do collections for individuals.

### **Amherst Trucking – Rich Pitts**

Amherst Trucking is a small company, compared to WM and AW. It is based in Hatfield and does both individual contracts with residents and contracts with towns. According to Mr. Pitts, AT prides itself on customer service and excellent communication with customers. AT has trucks that will likely be able to go anywhere in Shutesbury in winter. Although AT takes much of the trash and recycling it hauls to Duseau's new facility (Valley Recycling) the company could haul Shutesbury's trash to Covanta and recycling to the MRF. AT could also provide rollofts for Bulky Waste Day.

A fourth hauler, Alternative Recycling, is interested in the Shutesbury contract but did not want to meet with the committee before the RFP came out.

After the discussions with haulers, the Committee agreed to meet in January to review a draft of an RFP that Arlene will put together.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.