

Recycling and Solid Waste Committee

Tuesday, March 29, 2011 at 7:00 pm

Meeting location: Shutesbury Town Hall

Attendance: Present - Gary Bernhard - Recycling Coordinator, Paul Vlach - Chair, Nancy Dihlmann, Ron Essig, Gail Fleischaker, Meryl Mandell, Steve Rice Absent - Mino Caulton, Karen Czerwonka

Visitors: Michael Baines, Joanne Sunshower, Sarah Patton

Convene: 7:10 pm Minutes taker: Paul

1 - Gary introduced Michael Baines, a past RSWC member, as interested in rejoining the committee. Moved by Meryl, seconded by Gary, voted unanimously after a short discussion. Paul suggested Gary and Michael visit the Selectboard meeting in progress downstairs, and seek immediate appointment. They returned at 7:45 after this was voted by the Selectboard.

2 - Steve introduced residents Joanne Sunshower and Sarah Patton, who represent the "Transition Shutesbury Team", along with Steve. They presented a written proposal summary offering to coordinate the establishment and management of a Take It Or Leave It (TIOLI) swap event for residents, in order to divert usable items from the trash stream of Bulky Waste Day. This would be to replace the TIOLI area we had been running at BWDs, which were voted to cease as of last year due to traffic, safety, poor exchange rates, and several other factors.

A healthy and informative discussion ensued, including the following noted comments/observations and points addressed, not necessarily in the listed order: Meryl - Fees were charged at the events we held at BWDs. There were roll-off container capacity issues at the end of the day, due to unclaimed items. Gail - a pro would be the proper screening of items. Paul - A permanent site would have numerous issues (discussed). The RSWC could discuss the waiving of fees for unclaimed items. Screened stock might be donatable to area programs or agencies. Gary - Not coinciding with BWD would work better. Paul - That would avoid traffic issues, as well. The discussion was enlightening for the sponsors, and they felt they should discuss their options and considerations and then reapproach the town. It was noted that the select Board really has the final say on whether this would

happen. Steve will report back to RSWC after the sponsors meet with the select Board with a revised proposal.

Gary moved, Gail seconded, and voted unanimously the following: The RSWC supports the concept of a town TIOLI event, with the recommendation that it be held on a different day, preceding BWDs. That any items remaining after swapping and donation elsewhere, up to three pickup truck loads, could be accepted without a fee at BWD.

3 - Past Minutes - November 30, 2010 Minutes were approved unanimously. Posted on town website by Paul.

Old Business:

4 Duseau site visit by Gary and Becky:

Processing steps and locations for: regular weekly trash; weekly recycling; all Bulky Waste items: Gary reports that both trash and recycling goes to the Duseau lot in Hatfield. All recyclables go into 50 yard containers, which he pools and sends to the MRF in the name of multiple towns. "Our" loads may or may not all be just Shutesbury items, though Justine Fallon of DEP reports that unique loads of paper and containers do go to the MRF in Shutesbury's name.

Weights of weekly trash and each recycling type, provided to Becky by Duseau, as pledged during the visit: Buddy Duseau said he would begin this when they open their new facility in Northampton. None have been received at this point.

Discussion and analysis of how these numbers relate to our reported tipping fees at Covanta and credited deliveries to the Materials Recycling Facility. Gary reports that some paper is bundled and shipped to Sunoco in Holyoke, and that our electronics from BWD go to a place in Andover.

New Business:

5 - Planning for the composting workshop on April 13th. Gary reports that 12 people have registered so far through Arlene Miller for the event. Gary will repost it on the town e-mail list and RSWC members will pass it on to other lists to which they subscribe. Gary suggests two compost bins be given away as door prizes. Merrill said if we are to sell bins there that it would be \$20 for residents and \$30

for nonresidents. Steve is donating composted alpaca manure. Gary may solicit other items from local businesses. Gary will check on the setup and breakdown at the school, and buy refreshments and raffle tickets, and create a sign in sheet. Committee members are expected to arrive at 6:30 PM.

6 - Planning for bag distribution, beginning with day of May 7, 2011 Town Meeting. The group decided to return to a Wednesday and Saturday schedule through May and June. The varied days of last year were confusing to many residents. Gary will draft one up and send it out by e-mail for people to sign up.

7 - Current inventory - bags, composters, other. Gary will check inventory and have Becky order bags. We have two composters now with 18 coming.

8 Current RSW budget summary. Gail reports \$6,624.87 and a grant amount of \$954 which will purchase 18 compost bins at \$53.

9 Bulky Waste Day - June 4, 2011 planning and October 2010 BWD review: Gary will make sure we know what our rolloff billing will be, prior to BWD.

Final numbers from last event, October 2010: Gail presented spreadsheets. It was noted that the highway department overtime submission was missing.

- Where did our electronics go? How were they recycled and/or disposed of? Gary reports Duseau takes them to a facility in Andover.

- Where, in what steps, do all other items go? (Duseau in Hatfield; Covanta; MRF; other vendors; scrap metal facility; Information is still unclear on this.

- Things with Springs - any charges for disassembling, which is reportedly subcontracted by Duseau? If so, is this acceptable; if not, shall we adjust future fees charged to residents? This is still unresolved.

- Other --- traffic, security, volunteers, etc. . Volunteers will be solicited at town meeting. Nancy will prebuy the drinks and other supplies for lunch.

- Paul and Gary will both be out of town at weddings for June 4th. Ron will take over yard management. (Note - Gary's plans changed, and he attended BWD.)
But

10 - Request from Shutesbury 250th celebration committee for the RSWC to participate in the June parade with a recycling themed float. Discussed. No one was willing to commit to this.

11 - Begin the conversation about our contract with Duseau, which runs out at the end of 2012. (contract from Becky) . Gary said he had not received the contract copies. Topic tabled.

12 - Other items:

Gail presented a tonnage summary for the committee of past BWD events. We noted that the spring is a consistently busier day.

Gary was at the MassRecycle annual conference today, and will recap the info in a town mailing tomorrow.

Gary noted that starting in April, the MRF will begin accepting clear clamshell containers. They will still not except to color containers like roast chicken is packaged in.

13 - Next meeting date: none scheduled at this time

Meeting adjourned: 9:10 pm

These Minutes were unanimously approved at the August 2, 2011 meeting. PAV