

**Recycling and Solid Waste Committee  
Minutes of Thursday, July 29, 2010 meeting  
7:30pm at Shutesbury Town Hall**

**Posted with Town Clerk: July 26, 2010**

**Convened at 7:37 PM          Minutes for this meeting taken by Paul**

Present: Paul Vlach, Chair; Gary Bernhard, Recycling Coordinator; Mino Caulton,  
Karen Czerwonka, Nancy Dihlmann, Ron Essig, Meryl Mandell

Absent: Gail Fleischaker, Steve Rice

Guests/Visitors: Becky Torres, Town Administrator

**Old Business:**

1 – Past minutes approval: March 2, 2010 and April 13, 2010 Minutes were approved, with one typo noted, on a motion by Meryl seconded by Gary.

2 - Center for Ecological Technology technical assistance grant. Steve, Becky and Gary met with Lorenzo Mancaluso awhile back. Status report from Gary: New money will not be available until October. We will get some, but an unknown amount. The elementary school composting project did not get started in the Spring, but will begin in the Fall. Paul noted that we had previously voted that a reauthorization would be required for the Fall. The reauthorization vote has been put on hold until Gary speaks to principal Bob Mahler.

3 - Becky gave the group a budget summary. Available funds are low due to the following factors: less profit sharing from the MRF; the stipend for the recycling coordinator is now coming from the revolving funds account; and other expenditures, including - recycled tote bag purchase, trash bag order in May (\$3,900), and another bag order in July (\$4,100).

Becky noted that clear trash bags would cost about two thirds less, and a sticker system would be cheaper still. A short group discussion indicated no support for a change. The MRF revenue drop is due to market fluctuations. Becky will tally and check the MRF tonnage and compare it to our past figures. Gary will go to Hatfield and define the whole process with Duseau for our trash and recycling pickup, hauling, and delivery to the MRF and Covanta Energy. (for weekly, and Bulky Waste)

4 – June 2010 Bulky Waste Day review

- Becky will send us all figures after she has them clarified and after consultation with Gail Fleischaker. Rough estimate now - revenue \$3,900 (including fees charged and \$946.75 from Kane's Scrap Metals), known expenses \$2,522.
- Duseau billed us for \$1,500. There was a question about how many roll-offs this covered. It appears that we were charged for all, including a second metals container delivered on Monday after the event, and the electronics container delivered during the event, and which was not charged for the last time. We continued our discussion of the mattress and box spring issue. Gary has an understanding that we are charged \$25 per mattress or boxspring (but not couches or chairs) by Duseau for processing. Gary will define this with them on his site visit.
- Gary suggested we may need two metals roll-offs for the Fall, as we had to get a second one this time. All agreed that this should be done.

- Traffic handling – roadway; yard, police detail -Meryl had a problem coming in, and at least one other car was stuck in the BWD queue lane, thinking it was a through traffic lane, because there was no control person on the top end, after the cones had been set up along the centerline. The police filed a letter of complaint with the Select Board over Meryl's confusion with the traffic pattern, apparently thinking that it was intentional and was intended to be confrontational. Becky suggests a meeting to sort this out, perhaps with the police, Becky, Gary, Paul and Meryl. Becky will speak with Chief Tom Harding about a possible meeting on all bulky waste issues. Also, the officer allowed the sixth grade bake sale kids to work our queued traffic line, which we all felt was unsafe. The fundraising bake sale was set up on the vacant town property across the street from the highway department during Bulky.
- Swap area discussion: Not a lot of swapping occurs, and when it does, it ties up our yard traffic. We end up moving all leftovers into the trash, which is often maxed out before then. Paul had to speak with a party from Athol, who was present all day picking over items. He was advised not to return for our next event. Possible alternatives were discussed, but no viable ones were identified. Gary moved and Ron seconded that we discontinue the swap area. It was voted unanimously. Gary will assure that clear advance notice goes out on this change.
- Non-event traffic in the yard: swap area and pickers were addressed in the previous discussion point. Allowing of vendors, charities, and children groups was unanimously voted as being prohibited in the future due to safety and control concerns. The bag distribution, composter, and blue box sales must be continued, but will be moved to the far end of the highway building, or perhaps to the furthest bay over from the entrance, depending on weather and committee member comfort.
- Batteries (auto and rechargeable): the system is working as it has been set up. Clark's Auto Wrecking has been accepting lead acid batteries for free, providing a collection vehicle, and we have had a collection box for all other recyclable batteries, which are then brought to our shed at the Town Hall after the event. Collection of bulbs creates a problem due to the required packaging and transportation to Town Hall. The discussion was tabled for now, and will be brought up again at the September meeting.
- Post event security – the facility; items brought in; items removed; and enforcement options/desirability: The removal of the chain-link fence along the roadway is a problem. Theft of items (tire on rim) and illegal deposits (lg TV antenna, microwave) occur, as witnessed by Nancy Dihlmann after this event. No resolution is apparent. Becky said she will request police patrols, and did speak with them prior to the June event. Further discussion tabled until the September meeting.
- Food/water/weather – supplies, timing, contingencies. Tabled until September meeting.
- Other?? Meryl noted that it was very busy for her working the line solo. She would like assistance in pre-distributing the checkout slips to queued drivers at the next event.

### **New Business:**

- 5 - October 2010 Bulky Waste Day early planning. Tabled until September meeting.
- 6 - Fall 2010 joint Household Hazardous Waste collection event with Amherst. Unknown whether one will occur – Gary will check on it.
- 7 - Ten year anniversary of PAYT (Pay As You Throw) was on July 1, 2010: Action? Gary may address it within the context of the Trash & Recycling Survey summary which will go out to residents.

8- Community Composting area: Steve's request: Initial response by the group was that there were more hurdles than benefits on this, as State permitting and Town staffing would likely be required. Steve may bring it up for further discussion when he is present, if he wishes.

9 - Medical Waste Ban - original effective date - July 1, 2010

- New start date:
- Who is responsible - Board of Health, RSWC, shared, Select Board, other
- Hauler impact / Covanta impact
- Mandates – on the town; residents; hauler; are instructions or regulations needed for any of these parties?
- Collaboration with Amherst or other entities

Gary reports that he, BoH chair Bill Elliot, and Sue Waite (Amherst Recycling Coordinator) met to discuss this. Bill sees it as a Board of Health issue, and will look into arranging / purchasing a sharps collection system. The State has postponed implementation of the disposal ban for two years to further define and study the issue. Meryl recommended a "Trash Talk" on this topic.

10- Non-recyclers / low recyclers: Warning letters sent; next steps if any (ticket process). Tabled. Paul will incorporate possible options into a draft protocol for the various town entities who may play a role in this, and in roadside or backwoods illegal dumping, late trash bag setouts at collection points, etc., as they may involve similar or overlapping steps.

11- Recycling & trash survey done during bag distribution: results / discussion. Mino will get the completed surveys from Gary and extract the commentary, and Gary will then tally the responses and create a summary for us, and residents.

12 - Next meeting date and time – next topics: Tentative – Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**Adjourned at 9:50 PM**

**These Minutes were approved at the September 15, 2010 meeting. PAV**