

Shutesbury Recycling and Solid Waste Committee

April 10, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Convened 7:10 pm

Members Present: Paul Vlach (Chair), Gary Bernhard (Recycling Coordinator), Michael Baines, Karen Czerwonka, Ron Essig, Gail Fleischaker, Meryl Mandell, Steve Rice

Member Absent: Nancy Dihlmann

Guest : Becky Torres (Town Administrator) joined at 8:45pm

Past Minutes Approvals

Gary moved and Meryl seconded a motion to approve several sets of past meeting minutes pending minor revisions. These were for meetings held November 21, 2011, December 13, 2011, January 11, 2012, January 17, 2012, February 15, 2012, March 13, 2012 and March 20, 2012. The motion passed unanimously.

Single Stream versus Dual Stream Recycling

Meryl described several pros and cons of single stream recycling where comingled paper and containers are collected each week versus dual stream recycling where these materials are collected separately on alternate weeks. Single stream has some convenience features for residents, but processing issues result in contamination of paper going to paper mills. Shutesbury already has a high recycling rate, so single stream is not likely to increase it much. Meryl moved and Gail seconded a motion to stay with dual stream recycling then reconsider after gaining weigh-out experience with the new hauler. The motion passed unanimously.

New Trash and Recycling Hauler

Becky confirmed that a bid has been accepted and a contract is being negotiated with Allied Waste. A signed contract to start July 1, 2012 is not expected for about six weeks. No price list has been received yet from Allied Waste for private trash pickups instead of Bulky Waste Day. The Committee expressed thanks to Meryl for her idea to use a grant for technical assistance by Arlene Miller with this process, to Gary for his implementation, and to Gail and Meryl for their extensive editing of the RFP.

Allied Waste intends to have a truck at Town Meeting to help notify citizens that they will be the new hauler. They will stay with Wednesday pickups through August 2012, but Gary would like this to run through June 2013. Gary will check on printing the pickup schedule for inclusion in the Town newsletter scheduled to go out April 22. Gail will post on the town website.

Spring Bulky Waste Day Planning

Ron moved and Gary seconded a motion for Becky to secure Allied Waste for roll offs for Bulky Waste Day. The motion passed unanimously. Gary reported that the Salvation Army will have a truck onsite all day for electronics and textiles. Since the Salvation Army will not charge for electronics, there was consensus to not charge residents on a one-time trial basis. Paul suggested that Becky sign off on a written agreement that electronics are free and will be going to an authorized disposal facility. Gail will put together Bulky Waste Day price sheets. Gary will put an item into the Town newsletter.

Medical Waste

Gary confirmed that right now medical waste goes into the trash. There is another year before another approach is mandated by the State. The Board of Health will take the lead on this.

Trash Bag Distribution

Recycling and Solid Waste Committee (RSW Committee) members who had their personal calendars with them completed signups for distribution dates. Others agreed to sign up in the near future. Michael will work on securing an outside audio speaker to allow RSW Committee workers to hear Town Meeting proceedings.

Review of Stock of Trash Bags, Recycling Bins and Composters

Becky confirmed that she will order more large sized composters to have on hand prior to Town Meeting. There was an idea to trade our 40-yard roll off for a smaller airtight pod to store compost bins and trash bags. Perhaps trash bags can be distributed from the Highway Department instead of the Town Hall prior to Town staff taking over distribution.

RSW Committee Changes

Paul announced that he will leave the RSW Committee and won't be at Bulky Waste Day. He asked Ron who agreed to serve as Yardmaster at the event. Paul will update the Master Address Book for trash bag distribution. Michael nominated and Gail seconded Meryl to replace Paul as Chair. She agreed to do this on a trial basis if others do minutes. Paul was recognized for his many years of service to the Committee.

Next Meeting

If needed before Bulky Waste Day, the next meeting would be in May.

Adjourned 9:00pm