

Recycling and Solid Waste Committee Meeting

Tuesday August 2, 2011 at Town Hall. Posted as required.

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

Minute taker: Paul Convened: 7:00 pm at Town Hall

1 - Annual appointments: Committee members received annual reappointment packets left for us by Town Clerk Leslie Bracebridge. Copies of the Open Meeting law and Conflict of Interest laws were provided. Signoffs were completed, and delivered to the Clerk's office by Paul at the end of the meeting. Since the Clerk was unable to join us, members were advised by Paul to assure they contact her to be sworn to their duties for this committee, and any other appointed positions they may hold for the coming year.

2 - Approval of past meeting minutes: Distributed by Paul, discussed. Item #4 regarding Duseau yard material handling was reworded by GB and PV. Changes were moved by Gary, seconded by Meryl. It was voted unanimously to accept the minutes as adjusted.

3 - Spring (June 4, 2011) Bulky Waste review:

GB - Overall, it went well. Good volunteers.

PV - Thought we should send written "Thank You's" to the non-committee volunteers each time. Discussed. Gary will do that in the future.

There was another traffic control / RSWC conflict prior to the opening of the gates. Discussed briefly, to clarify for discussion with Chief Harding when he arrives.

Expenses, revenue, overview, what worked well, issues to address in future:

Reviewed spreadsheets created by Gail F. No billings received from Police; Highway; or Interstate Refrigerant recovery. GB - Becky got the police billing. GF

- Town Accountant Gail Weiss never received it, therefore couldn't share it with GF. Past billings were \$150 highway, \$218 police. GB - Interstate Refrigerant may not have come to decommission CFCs and pickup the propane tanks yet. He would check. Paul checked after the meeting - all the units are still at the Highway yard, including a refrigerator with door attached.

Rolloff charges: \$1,125 for 5 (\$225 each). GB - They brought 6, billed 6 including the 'free' electronics one. Becky called, and they adjusted the billing back to 5.

Future issues: Piles of junk (tires with rims, etc) were in or near the unlocked Town-owned rolloff. Unknown if these were items that Tim Hunting and his crew picked up roadside, or they were brought to the yard by unauthorized parties. Gary will speak with Tim about being sure to put items inside the container and relocking it, and to watch for other things dumped near there, between our BWDs.

4 - Specific discussion about traffic control at BWD events - Chief Harding invited. 8:10pm Chief stopped by after Select Board meeting, saying he couldn't meet this evening. Paul was to gather info and discuss one-on-one prior to October BWD to assure smoother cooperation. (That was done in September - PV)

5 - Grants discussion

A - \$500 DEP grant applied for - info from GB - Arlene Miller has indicated we should expect to receive this. GB will have Becky spend half on recycling bins and half on compost bins, assuring that Becky orders the larger ("BIN-24" 24 cubic feet) composters this time, not the smaller 11 cf ones in the last order. GB reports all composters have been sold (21 units), which gives us an additional \$420 in co-pays to purchase more.

B - Technical Assistance grant - upcoming submission deadline - up to 80 hours of DEP staff time. Discussion on use. GB - more composting workshops? MM - 'welcome to town' (Welcome Wagon type) packets? Have Arlene research the options for the renewal of the solid waste/recycling contract? MB - target those who recycle less; or implement recycling education in the elementary school? Discussed past programs by individual teachers - GB will check back on this with the school. Note - Michael was trained as an "Eagle Team" member in Northampton, and has the materials to do household visits, training residents to maximize their recycling and minimize their trash.

Group decision - GB will discuss with Arlene these two choices: 1 - look at Duseau operation, clarify waste stream issues, and work on accountability. 2 - look at our contract which expires next year, offer feedback, and identify other options in the region. (Note - see additional topics in #7 below)

6 - Stock on hand, inventory control, sales tracking, bag distribution review, related misc discussion. GB - Becky will be ordering more bags, as we are getting low. He has been tracking sales. Becky is still doing bag distribution and sales at the Saturday Farmer's Market. The library no longer sells bags. Discussed money and personal checks control. The Master Book storage system between RSWC distribution days will be adjusted for security, and GB will do more frequent deposits of bag/composters/bins sales money, rather than leaving it with the book, in the future.

7 - Discussion on recommended location of a Big Belly Compactor/Recycler unit being given to the Town under the Green Communities program. PV explained that this agenda item discussion was predicated upon receipt of further info from the Town Administrator prior to the meeting, which was not provided. We may NOT get the unit, or the only place it may go with guaranteed monitoring/maintenance is the Town Hall. Potential other locations: School, Library, Town Beach, other??

The unit design prompted a side discussion about single-stream recycling. GB noted that it is a current option through the MRF (Materials Recycling Facility). Several questioned why we are not doing it now. GB said that Duseau has told him they could do it. Decided we should discuss this with Arlene Miller as part of the technical assistance grant - should we change to single-stream; how to implement if we do; contract issues, etc. GB noted the MRF contract also expires next year.

Group spontaneously decided to discuss the Big Belly unit based on the limited info provided. Questions raised - are there program restrictions on where it could go? How heavy will compacted trash bags be, as this is a large unit, with a potential conflict on bag weight restrictions for Duseau drivers? Merits of different sites discussed based on traffic (likely volume), public visibility, maintenance required, solar power, and security. As a result, the following recommendation was agreed upon for Becky: Assuming agreement by responsible parties to monitor and change the bags, find a safe yet visible exterior location, and watch for weight issues for Duseau; offer it to (in order) the Shutesbury Athletic Club or the Town Hall.

Third choice if those don't work, just refuse to accept it. (Paul passed this on to Becky verbally, prior to her delivery deadline date.)

8 - Recent Duseau route and equipment issues. Discussed - PV and GB drove the route checking for glass spillage from broken truck seals, finding a half dozen or so locations. PV had already had a discussion with the main driver, and the Duseau office staff. The driver said they were addressing the seals problem, and that the primary recurring issues were heavy or breaking bags due to cat litter and diapers. PV and GB will work on creating an informational webpage within the RSW area of the town website to address litter options and diaper services. GB noted that he had received good feedback on area diaper laundering services from residents.

9 - Trash and Recycling hauler contract expiration next year. Begin discussion and review of contract and bid request content and expectations.

Based on discussions in #5 and #7 above, GB would begin discussions about this with Arlene Miller. Paul had retrieved printed copies of prior trash and MRF contracts from Becky, and would scan and distribute them before the next meeting.

10 - Upcoming events - Next Bulky Waste Day is October 1, 2011. Tentative next meeting date September 14th. (PV Note - this was cancelled, and rescheduled to November 21, 2011.)

Note: These minutes were approved at the November 21, 2011 meeting.