

**Shutesbury Recycling and Solid Waste Committee
Minutes of January 11, 2010 Meeting**

Meeting convened at 7:40 PM at Town Hall. Minutes taken by Paul Vlach.

Present: Paul Vlach, Chair; Gary Bernhard, Recycling Coordinator, Steve Rice, Gail Fleischaker, Meryl Mandell, Ron Essig, Mino Caulton

Town Administrator Becky Torres joined us at 8:50 PM from other meetings

Absent: Nancy Dihlmann and Karen Czerwonka

Old Business:

1. Review and approve Minutes of Nov. 5, 2009 meeting. Moved: Gary, Seconded: Meryl. Unanimously approved, as presented. Paul will forward to Town Clerk.
2. Items two through six are old business from the November 5th meeting.

October Bulky Waste Day wrap-up, and review of figures.

- a. Missing accounting for things with Springs.
 - Paul tracked this down through a driver. Duseau brings the things with Springs back to their yard, where they separate the metal from the trash.
 - Discussion followed on the related roll-off charge, if this is only provided for their convenience.
 - Gary and Gail are to check the Covanta versus bulky waste bills, and
 - Gary will follow-up to determine the Duseau system prior to the Spring bulky waste day.
 - b. scrap metal credit unresolved as of last meeting
 - This remains unclear. Gary's inquiry on the Duseau system may shed light for the future.
 - c. any other outstanding questions?
 - None raised.
3. HHW – Household Hazardous Waste – 16 residents this time.

Gary was going to contact Amherst DPW to get resident names and any other information such as businesses who had registered for the October 2009 event.

 - The bill was \$668 for 11 full household equivalents at \$48 each and 5 half household equivalents at \$28 each, with a \$200 credit for Karen working.
 - There was no customer tracking that they could provide to Gary by name, address, or the materials they brought for collection.
 - Paul suggested that we force preregistration through us before they are allowed to register with Amherst, so that we can screen them for business waste and types of materials, and perhaps tailor our program in the future.

- This was agreed to be a good idea, and Gary will determine the full process in Amherst, so we can effectively incorporate this change.
4. Recycled / reusable promotional bag selection and purchase vote.
View new bags - review final cost - review insert to be used for distribution.
- The group loved the bags and thanked Meryl for coordinating the project.
 - The cost was \$2,272.50 for 1000 bags at \$2.27 each.
 - We will discuss sale of extra bags after this Springs' distribution period, where each household will be given one bag.
 - We acknowledged that some households skip a year. So will be certain to run the free bag per household for two years.
 - We reviewed and approved the insert flyer that Meryl drafted to go out with each bag, which will have the pickup schedule printed on the back side.
5. Recycling Coordinator items and updates by Gary:
- a. Update on food waste composting for the school.
- Steve tried calling the original pig farmer from Wendell that Mino identified, who failed to respond, but he never called Steve back.
 - Gary and Steve identified Clear View Composting of Orange, operated by Richard Innes, as a possible replacement collector of food waste.
 - Gary will arrange a meeting with SES principal Bob Mahler and Mr. Innes.
 - Merrill moved, Gary seconded a \$50 per month cap for subsidizing this program through the end of June. Approved.
- b. New bag supply – Becky just placed an order for 80 cases. They are the same drawstring-top bags as this year. They are 1.6 mm thick, and they cost \$3,136. There are 200 bags per case, and they are packed in rolls of 10. We will need to order more bags after some budget questions are answered.
- c. Gary's proposed price adjustment on bag sale prices.
- This discussion was resumed from last meeting. The committee came to agree that this is a necessary step to encourage additional recycling among heavy bag users. Gary moved and Ron seconded that we recommend to the Select Board that the price of bags sold in excess of the base allotment be raised from two dollars to three dollars per bag. This would mean \$30 per 10 bag roll instead of the current \$20. Approved. Gary volunteered to draft the recommendation to the board.
- d. Update on bag sales / inventory tracking. Library sales to be verified by Gary.
- No sales records are being kept. Cash only transactions, Mary Anne Antonellis turns the money over to Gail Weiss, who logs it as "bag sales".
 - Gary has given tracking sheets to the Leverett Co-op, who said they will "try" to capture names and addresses when it's not too busy.
 - There is no tracking of customers for sales at the Town Hall.

- e. Talking Trash emails
 - Gary's "opening salvo" is in the town newsletter coming out soon. He will follow-up with other topics. Paul suggested piggybacking on the Town Administrator's weekly email report, regularly emailing Becky short pieces to include within her consistent mailing.
- 6. Almanac & website updates Gary was writing up mercury; Gail was researching Styrofoam and correcting the almanac and website.
 - Gary is still working on the mercury info and will put out a "Talking Trash" on that topic when he gets it together.
 - Gail has already updated the online almanac and website references regarding Styrofoam options.
- 7. An earlier past discussion was resumed about creating a survey on composting and use of the almanac. Gary offered to draft a questionnaire, which will most likely be handed out during trash bag distribution this spring.

New Business:

- 8. Budget review with Town Administrator, including FY 09 expenses taken from FY 10 account.
 - Becky joined us at 8:50 PM just as we arrived at this agenda item. She and Gail discussed a missing bulky waste billing. Becky will check with Gail Weiss.
 - Last year's revenue was \$22,000. We cannot carry over more than \$5,000 from the revolving fund. This year, per a town meeting vote, the expenditure cap was raised from \$15,000 to \$20,000 for recycling and solid waste expenditures.
 - We expect an additional \$5-\$6,000 of revenue over the next five months, plus a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) payment to the town of approximately \$1,800.
 - Several FY09 bills were paid out of this year's budget, because of insufficient funds last year: primarily bulky waste bills and bag purchases.
 - In addition to carried over bills, some of the contributing factors to a current year budget shortfall were: 1- the return of the \$973 MRF mini-grant this past Fall; 2 - Compost bin purchases of \$1,060; 3 - a drop in MRF payments due to the recycling market decline; 4 - \$300 to properly recycle a hazardous material collection (bulbs and batteries) found in the fire station which we were not advised of, on top of the cost of emptying the collection shed at the town hall, which had not been done for several years.
 - Becky reported that the Select Board has the authority to increase the cap for this fiscal year, with a notice to town meeting, and that she will request that of the board at their next meeting.
- 9. DEP will stop compiling recycling and diversion data sheets by municipality.
 - Gary had received a letter from them, indicating that this was due to budget constraints. We noted that we can figure out our own rates if need be.

10. Information from Center for Ecological Technology. Steve, Becky and Gary met with Lorenzo Macaluso. We can get 20 hours or more of technical assistance.
 - CET received a \$90,000 grant to assist small towns and recycling.
 - Possible topics for Shutesbury: composting workshops, education program in the school, education about the “ReStore” home improvement center which recycles building materials, info on mercury recycling and food waste education.
 - CET will provide us with 750 MRF tri-fold flyers listing currently acceptable items.
 - They are meeting again on February 2 at 10 AM at the school, to meet with the principal.

11. Northampton home recycling visits. Offer a program?
 - Paul presented information from the newspaper on “GREEN Northampton” where a group in coordination with their recycling committee is making house visits upon request, to analyze household trash for all recycling opportunities. Discussed. Dismissed at this time.

- 12: Other business:
 - Informational and sign off packets were distributed from the Town Clerk to members who needed it, in order to comply with the new ethics law mandate. These need to be returned to the Town Clerk by April 2.
 - Meryl raised a recurring discussion about the dirt section of Wendell road not being picked up on trash days. Becky explained that a veteran Duseau driver has had recurring problems restarting on the hillside north of Meryl's house, and when that happens, he backs down the hill, loops around on pavement and comes in to pick up at the top end. When this happens, there is a quarter-mile section that goes uncollected. Becky saw no alternatives to this problem. Meryl requested that notice go out to affected homeowners in some manner. Paul suggested that it's a road maintenance issue. No resolution was reached.
 - Paul suggested that each committee member receive one of the new recycled content, reusable bags, so they could be tested and shown around, and they were distributed.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.