

Shutesbury Recycling and Solid Waste Committee
Minutes
February 2, 2009

Attending: Gary Bernhard, Meryl Mandell, Steve Rice, Gail Fleischaker, Paul Vlach, Nancy Dihlmann, and Karen Czerwonka. Absent: Ron Essig. Visiting: Mino Caulton.
The meeting was convened at 7:30 PM.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with minor changes.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Recycling Coordinator applications

The committee agreed to interview all the candidates that applied. David Dann indicated that there was one more candidate that expressed interest for a total of 4. There was discussion regarding whether the application date for the position had closed. David clarified that the job posting left the date open. David will set up the interviews for Monday, 2/16 beginning at 7:30 PM. The interviews will be 20 minutes each.

2. Trash Disposal Contract

David has indicated that our trash disposal costs with Covanta are higher than some other options currently available, so he is doing some research to find out what the options are. Our current contract with Covanta expires June 2012 and David will find out if we could reduce our costs by extending our contract early. Our contract calls for increasing annual costs based on the CPI. Perhaps the yearly increases could be capped. David will find out if there is a reasonable cap.

Gail brought up some ideas on permitting for hauling and mandatory recycling. Currently the town does not issue a permit to the hauler. Gail will enquire with the board of health about issuing a permit. The committee also discussed if it was appropriate for the haulers to not pick up trash when recycling is not present. Some thought it was not a good idea because not everyone accumulates enough recycling material to put out each week. The committee will take up increasing the recycling rate at a future meeting.

3. Recycling Grant

There was some discussion on not accepting this grant as it was specially designed for Roger Cartwright. We decided to send the grant information to the coordinator applicants to see if anyone of them is interested to doing this part, but it would not be a condition of employment.

4. Trash-Recycling Pickup on steep roads

There has been a problem with some town roadways (e.g. the gravel portion of Wendell Road) not getting trash pickup during winter. David provided a letter that describes our current agreement with the hauler about specific streets in winter that are not picked up. These residents are notified annually to put their trash at the end of the road. Apparently some additional roadways not covered in the agreement are being missed. David will outline steps to take with residents on roadways that are missed for whatever reason. David said that he could use the town's emergency notification system to phone residents on just the skipped roadways of an alternate pickup day and/or location.

5. Recycling Committee policies and procedures and relationship of committee to Town Administrator and Select Board.

The committee needs to get a clearer picture of budget expense and income items and trash and recycling tonnage. One problem identified was in the accounting as the specific income and expense items are identified in general and not specified terms. There needs to be some further categories added so we can track bags and bin sales as well as income from BWD and MRF. There is also no formal accounting for bags that are distributed to the Coop and the library. The other goal is to get accurate trash and recycling weights so we can track these items as well. A subcommittee was identified to resolve these issues. Gary, Paul, Gail, and Steve volunteered to be on this subcommittee. The committee emphasized that we just want to help David do his job.

6. Use of RSW Committee funds to support attendance at Recycling events.

The committee approved expense funds for Gail to attend the last MassRecycle event. The group expressed interest in encouraging other committee members to attend these types of events, when able. Meryl requested that committee members attending events using committee funds should be encouraged to report back to the committee with any new findings/trends/opportunities related to recycling and/or solid waste issues that are gleaned from the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Minutes by Steve Rice