

Final Meeting Minutes – Recycling and Solid Waste Committee (RSWC) – November 11, 2021

Attendees (virtual Zoom) – Meryl Mandell (Chair), Gary Bernhard (Recycling Coordinator), Ron Essig, Gail Fleischaker, Marla Killough, Tim Logan, Steve Rice

Absent – Sue Quigley, Peg Ross

1) Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

2) Minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting were approved

3) Contracts/Grants Update – The town’s trash and recycling hauler contract with USA Recycling is due to end 6/30/2022. It can be extended one year without going out for bid as per state bid laws. The RSWC voted unanimously to ask the Selectboard to contact USA Recycling to request a one year contract extension. The Town Administrator should initiate this contract negotiation as soon as possible because an RFP process for a new contractor would need to start if USA Recycling chooses not to extend. Meryl will contact the Selectboard and copy the Town Administrator on this. Future contract considerations include multi-year extensions and multi-town coordinated bids. Gary will explore these future options with regional recycling contacts like Susan Waite and Arleen Miller

Gary had no information on new grant possibilities. The most recent grant was for \$2800 for cooperation with the Leverett Transfer Station (LTS).

4) Universal Waste Collection Changes - Meryl and Gary met with Town Hall staff about their concerns that hazardous materials (particularly items containing mercury) are collected and stored in the copy room. As a result, fluorescent bulbs will no longer be accepted since Home Depot and Lowes will take them at no charge. Lowe’s does not accept 8’ bulbs, and both location limit the number that can be brought in at one time to ten. Rechargeable batteries, thermostats, etc will continue to be accepted within five gallon buckets downstairs in Town Hall. Gary will provide a list of acceptable items for posting on the website.

5) Trash Bag Distribution – The RSWC would like trash bags to be ordered as soon as possible to avoid the shortages experienced this year. There was concern that there was not enough room in the shed for a large supply, but the RSWC agreed to proceed with an order. Gary will contact the Town Administrator on whether he could place this order for trash bags and compost bins. A rollup canopy to attach to the front of the shed for rain protection when open will be considered for the future.

6) Textile Collection Update – The Mass DEP will ban textiles and mattresses from landfills and incinerators next year. The LTS has a textile drop-off station and Goodwill and Salvation Army also accept textiles. Mattresses would need to be stored for breaking down, so Gary will check on regional coordination for that. He will provide a short writeup on textiles and mattresses for the website.

Gary reported that two area firms (Triple T and Clearview) have industrial composting facilities. These might be expensive for resident collection or for the school to restart its food composting. Gary will follow up with Amy Donovan at Franklin County on this. Future community gardens behind Town Hall

might be a collection place for compost or cardboard. Meryl will contact the Recreation Committee about this.

7) Other – Tim asked about recycling education at the school. This has come and gone with the various principals and curricula in the past. Meryl and Gary will meet with the current principal. Marla offered to help with future activities if there was interest from the school.

Gail reported an October profit of \$647 on recycled materials collected.

#### Action Items

Meryl - Contact the Selectboard and copy the Town Administrator on a one-year extension of the trash and recycling hauler contract

Gary - Explore multi-town recycling and trash hauler contract future bids with regional recycling contacts like Susan Waite and Arleen Miller

Gary - Provide a list of acceptable universal waste items brought to the Town Hall for posting on the website

Gary - Contact the Town Administrator on whether he could place the order for trash bags and compost bins in the coming weeks

Gary - Check on regional coordination for handling mattress disposal

Gary - Provide a short writeup on disposal of textiles and mattresses for the website

Gary – Follow up with Amy Donovan at Franklin County on residential and school food composting

Meryl - Contact the Recreation Committee on using the future community gardens behind the Town Hall as a collection place for compost or cardboard

Meryl and Gary – Meet with the school principal about recycling education

Gary – Tally annual revenue from LTS stickers

Gail – explore options for a roll up canopy that can be affixed to the shed to provide rain protection when open.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Draft minutes submitted by Ron Essig

Final minutes submitted by Meryl Mandell