

Final Meeting Minutes – Recycling and Solid Waste Committee (RSWC) – January 6, 2022

Attendees (virtual Zoom) – Meryl Mandell (Chair), Gary Bernhard (Recycling Coordinator), Gail Fleischaker, Tim Logan, Susan Waite (Mass DEP Western District Municipal Assistance Coordinator), Marla Killough, Steve Rice

RSWC Members absent – Susan Quigley, Peg Ross

1 - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

2 – Minutes from November 11, 2021 meeting were approved.

3 – Status of Prior Action items:

A – Meryl, Gary and the Town Administrator met with USA Recycling regarding a one-year contract extension with USA. USA Recycling declined to extend the contract one more year.

B – Gary talked with Susan Waite, DEP and Arlene Miller, Town of Longmeadow Recycling Coordinator, regarding future contract considerations (such as multi-year extensions and multi-town coordinated bids) but more needs to be discussed.

C - Gary provided a list of acceptable universal waste items, brought to the town hall, for posting on the website

D - Gary asked the Town Administrator to order more trash bags and bins. He also asked about scheduling a meeting to discuss whether or not he could place an order directly himself, for trash bags and compost bins, in the coming weeks rather than go through the Town Administrator. An order has not been made and we need to prepare one soon. Concern was expressed over the delays caused by the current ordering process. A meeting with Becky has not been scheduled yet.

E - Gary was going to check on regional coordination for handling some textiles and mattresses and provide a short writeup on textiles and mattresses for the website. He needs additional time to do this.

F - Meryl contacted Elaine Puleo and the Recreation Committee about using future community gardens behind Town Hall as a collection site for compost and/or cardboard. They were enthusiastic. However, things are on hold until they know if a library will be built on lot O32 - in which case lot O32 would be the location of the town gardens and a collection place for compost/cardboard.

G - Gary and Meryl did not meet with the school principal about recycling education. That item is on hold until after we deal with the contract for a new hauler.

H - Gary sent out information on annual revenue from LTS stickers. Revenue was around \$6000 with about \$3000 being paid to Leverett. It has worked out very well for us. The excess funds have been used to purchase trash bags, compost bins and recycling bins.

I - Gail investigated a canopy for the distribution shed. Installing a canopy is complicated by the fact that the door is very close to the edge of the roof. One possibility is an attached roll out canopy which can be rolled out once the door is opened. The cost of such an item might

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be around \$1000. Other possibilities include building the roof out a little further over the door and getting in contact with Shed Works in Belchertown. Gail will follow-up on this.

J - Gary did not have a chance to follow up with Amy Donovan at Franklin County Solid Waste District on residential and school food composting. He will do that after the holidays.

4 - General discussion regarding a new hauler:

A –Arlene Miller (formally had Susan's position at DEP, now Recycling Coordinator if Longmeadow) indicated to Gary that Casella was continuing to do dual stream and bag pick up for rural communities.

B - The recycle committee strongly supports dual stream processing because it is much better for successful processing of recyclables in that it creates a less contaminated product. Also, if we had to shift to carts, under an automated approach, it could be a challenge for some Shutesbury residents with long driveways.

C - Susan Waite stated that, unfortunately, all the major national haulers have invested in single stream and are focusing on that for the future. However, Waste Management still processes dual stream in Springfield and has recently renewed a contract with Massachusetts DEP.

C - Meryl asked Susan Waite how realistic it is to stick with dual stream as we seek a new contract. Susan said, for her, it's hard to know because she doesn't have enough awareness of the dual stream market - but she says why not go for it.

D - Susan mentioned that she has talked with some of her colleagues about self-hauling and will try to get us some more information about that. There are two towns, at least, on the Cape that are self-hauling. She will also provide us a contact in Greenfield since they also do self-hauling, as well as a contact in Amherst (Gilford Mooring) who had looked into self-hauling. Self-hauling is where the municipality uses its own truck(s) for pick up. The committee agreed that it's extremely doubtful self-hauling would work in Shutesbury. Problems include locating a truck before July 1 (which Arlene has said would be nigh impossible); finding and keeping CDL licensed drivers; and getting site assignments for pick-up locations. Greenfield has had great difficulty keeping drivers.

E - A subcommittee, consisting of Meryl, Gary, Gail, and Tim, was formed for moving the RFP and contract process forward as soon as possible. The first subcommittee meeting will be scheduled for January 11 at 1 PM. Prior to that Meryl will set up a Google doc for hauler interview questions. Gary will contact 4 haulers (after getting contact info from Arlene), and try to set up a separate appointment with each throughout the day on Friday, January 14. Interview questions will be provided to the haulers before the actual interviews. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled for January 15 at 11am

5 - Future action items:

A - Gary will talk more with Susan Waite and Arlene Miller regarding future contract considerations (such as multi-year extensions and multi-town coordinated bids).

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B – Gary needs to schedule a meeting with the Town Administrator and Meryl to discuss whether or not he can place an order directly himself, for trash bags and compost bins, in the coming weeks, rather than go through the Town Administrator.

C - Gary will continue to check on regional coordination for handling some textiles and mattresses and provide a short writeup on textiles and mattresses for the website.

D - Meeting with the school principal about recycling education is on hold until after a new hauler contract is signed.

E – Gail will get in contact with Shed Works and further explore options for a shed canopy.

F - Gary follow up with Amy Donovan at Franklin County on residential and school food composting.

G - Meryl will set up a Google doc for hauler interview questions.

H - Gary will contact the haulers (after getting contact info from Arlene Miller) and set up separate appointments with each throughout the day on Friday, January 14.

6 - Meeting adjourned approx.. 8:30pm.

Submitted by Tim Logan