

Shutesbury Recycling and Solid Waste Committee

Final Meeting Notes - December 18, 2019

Attendees: Meryl Mandell (Chair), Gary Bernhard (Recycling Coordinator), Ron Essig, Gail Fleischaker, Marla Killough, Liz Lacy, Peg Ross

Absent: Ezzell Floranina, Sue Quigley, Steve Rice

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

1. Minutes from the June 25, 2019 meeting were approved pending minor edits
2. Celebrate Shutesbury – This was described as a very positive experience with many people visiting the Committee table. About 70 people took the recycling quiz. Meryl will provide the updated quiz and answers to Gail for posting on the website.
3. Recycling Shed – Meryl and Gary visited several vendors to look at options for a 10' by 12' shed. The Finance Committee approved the purchase from a vendor in Greenfield named Lamore Lumber. Plans are for delivery on April 1 to the paved area off the northeast side of the elementary school. Committee members agreed to paint the shed.
4. Illegal Dumping Meeting – Meryl and Gary met with the Police Chief, Highway Department Chief and Town Administrator about a revised process to deal with illegal dumping. The Police will have two weeks to investigate after a complaint is received. Then the Highway Department will be informed and allowed two weeks for removal if the trash owner cannot be identified. Meryl is waiting for Leverett Transfer Station staff approval to accept 2-3 loads per year from the Highway Department as part of the town's annual \$3000 LTS fee. A Google doc was created and shared to allow each person to enter their actions so that progress can be tracked.
5. MRF Contract Bid – Shutesbury used to earn about \$4K per year for recyclables and now we have to pay to dispose of them. Prices in the current MRF contract bid can vary based on average market value of different recovered materials. These prices will vary around a high of \$93.50 per ton, with a worse case of the town paying \$17-18K per year for recyclables disposal. There will be some changes in acceptable materials that the Committee needs to educate residents on. Shredded paper and aerosol cans will not be allowed; while clear plastic cups and clear egg cartons will be allowed.
6. USA Recycle Performance and Regional Contracts – The contract to haul trash and recyclables still has two years left. The trash disposal contract is up in 2020. Two of five bidders were interviewed including the current contractor Cassela at \$77.50 per ton. The other firm interviewed was Community Eco (formerly Covanta). Gary will work toward Selectboard approval of a new trash disposal contract next year.

7. Grant Status – Shutesbury was awarded a \$500 reimbursement grant. This will be used to buy round-style compost bins for purchase by residents.

8. Other – Half way through the year, residents purchased Leverett Transfer Station stickers totaling \$3,460. Gary and Liz met with the elementary school principal on composting. The school has been taking good measures, but has not provided poundage results.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

-Notes taken by Ron Essig