

# SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

## Initiatives and Progress

The current Solid Waste Committee initially met on August 9, 2023 and was given two initial projects to accomplish along with timeframes to complete them. Outlined below are those initiatives, progress made to date, and future steps to complete the initiative. Also outlined below are future initiatives for the SWC.

### CURRENT PROJECTS

#### Trash Hauler Replacement (Deadline December 31, 2023):

Bowdoinham's trash hauler for over 30 years is retiring at end of current contract, June 30, 2024. In order to have replacement in place and meet budgeting deadlines replacement must be selected by December 31, 2023.

STEPS	STATUS
Develop and issue RFP	Completed. RFP Issued, responses due 11/9/2023
Gauge public interest in potentially changing trash model to a less expensive model.	Completed. Town citizens strongly preferred existing curbside pick up model and would be willing to pay self-sustaining trash ticket price.
Evaluate RFP responses and make recommendations to TM and Selectboard	Pending - recommendations to be made to TM in time for 12/12/2023 Select Board meeting.

#### Revise Bowdoinham Solid Waste Ordinance (1994) (Deadline March, 15, 2024):

Bowdoinham's current Solid Waste Ordinance is almost 30 years old and needs to be updated/revise. Finalized version needs to be complete and approved in time to be printed in the 2024 Town Report.

STEPS	STATUS
Establish format and elements	Partially complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ordinance will outline what to accomplish, but not how or where to do that</li><li>• Ordinance will have a recital introduction, consistent with prior ordinance</li><li>• Ordinance will clearly differentiate between trash and recycling program</li></ul>
Review ordinances from other towns to identify any best practices we can use.	Pending - currently the SWC is reviewing 12 towns' ordinances and are working on next steps.

# SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

## Initiatives and Progress

STEPS	STATUS
Gauge Bowdoinham citizen's interests and requests, including financial willingness to support program	Partially complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have input on trash program</li><li>• are constructing survey for recycling portion of program</li></ul>
Draft ordinance for legal review.	Pending
Present drafted and reviewed ordinance to TM and Select Board	Pending - due March 29, 2023.

### FUTURE INITIATIVES

#### In-sourcing trash pick-up:

Should the citizens vote to continue current trash curbside pick up model through the revised ordinance process perform a cost-benefit analysis of continuing the practice of hiring an external trash hauler vs. having Bowdoinham employees perform services. Focus to be on leveraging potential financial savings.

#### Facility requirements for recycling program:

Should the citizens vote to continue a recycling program, evaluate the physical needs to administer that program. A quote was obtained previously to build a 10,000' recycling facility at the Pond Road location, that quote was about \$2.1MM. It has not been proven a facility of that magnitude is necessary; currently the program works with minimal infrastructure. While it is possible no improvements to the Pond Road facility would be required, this initiative would evaluate what would be needed and cost of recommended improvements, if any.

#### Communication Strategy

We believe (based on anecdotal evidence - we will confirm through an updated recycling survey) there is some confusion in Town with regard to the current single source recycling program that may have a negative impact to citizens' recycling efforts. There may be opportunity to improve communication on this, and all areas of the Solid Waste program. This initiative will explore how to possibly improve communication to the citizens at little to no additional funding.