

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE - Minutes

<u>Attending</u>	<u>Not in Attendance</u>
Wendy Cunningham	
Paul Denis	
Pat McDonough	
Paul Tabor	
Bryan Benson, Solid Waste and Recycling Director, Staff	

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from 1/10/2024 meeting approved.

UPDATE FROM SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

- Transfer Station license - approval to apply for the license will be reviewed by the Select Board. Bryan will let us know when that is on the SB agenda so people from the SWC may attend - obtaining this license will allow more flexibility, but will not require we provide all services possible with a transfer license. There was question if the State will need to further inspect the site, according to SWD the Maine DEP has already visited the site and did not indicate any changes that would be needed. After the license application they may want to visit again, but based on initial visit we do not anticipate any negative impacts from a subsequent visit.
- Recycling compactor - this is up and running and preliminary input from citizens who have visited and used the compactor has been overwhelmingly positive. Once we have more experience with this machine SWD will report back on how it's going. SWD will have piece written about the compactor published on the different applicable FB pages and it will be published in upcoming Town publications.

REVISED ORDINANCE BASED ON 1/24/2024 PUBLIC INPUT

Outlined below is a recap of the majority of the items raised in the 1/24/2024 public input session. Items requiring simple typo or grammatical corrections are not noted below, but all changes can be seen on the next iteration of the draft ordinance (2/3/2024 v. 6).

- In general all places where parties other than the Select Board were charged with changes/ management of portions of the ordinance have been changed to place this responsibility with the Select Board.

- Recitals (Whereas clauses) vs. Purposes - public input was concerned about noting 'age friendly' language may not have been appropriate for a purpose. We discussed changing that 'purpose' to include accessibility to all residents, but ended deciding to keep the title 'Purpose' and eliminating the clause talking about 'age friendly' Bowdoinham.
- There was a question about specifying 'climate change' in the environmental purpose. The definition used is the State definition, as climate change is part of 'maintaining the quality of the environment' we did not include specific reference to climate change as it would be redundant.
- There was question from several farmers in town regarding defining Agricultural Waste as most agricultural 'waste' is actually useful, i.e. not waste per se. Also much of that is generated from fields that may not be located in Bowdoinham but is co-mingled with agricultural 'waste' that is generated from Bowdoinham fields. We eliminated the definition of Agricultural Waste as well as reference to such within the Ordinance.
- Definition of biomedical waste - inquiry from public was could we include all animals (domesticated and wild) as well as plants. The definition used was directly from the State definition - will check with legal on change.
- Definition of Health Officer was discussed with suggestion to possibly reviewing actual job description to see if definition needs updating. *[Update - Wendy spoke with the Bowdoinham Health Officer. The appointment was made by prior Town Manager (Bill Post) and no job definition was provided. However the definition used is accurate based on duties they are currently performing and are consistent with the position as described by the then Town Manager.]*
- Have added definitions for both Household and Incident as requested by public.
- Discussion around having definition of Inert Material as this is generally governed by the Land Use Ordinance. The definition is not used to describe what can be done with inert fill, but rather to identify what may not be subject to provision in the ordinance around inert fill, i.e. a provision doesn't apply to inert fill so we need to define what is exempted.
- Added definition of Municipal Hauler - based on definition from the 1994 Ordinance but updated to be current.
- Definition of Recyclable facility has changed to not catch up facilities not intended - we have removed specifying material that may be reused for the same form.
- Solid Waste Committee - discussion about specifying number of committee members required. Prior ordinance required 5 members, we cannot meet that number with current committee even though we are currently advertising for additional members. Other places in ordinances/statutes committees are required to have sufficient number to establish a quorum (e.g. 3) and as Select Board appoints individuals they can manage the maximum to maintain efficiency. Not specifying a number provides more flexibility.
- Definition of Solid Waste Director - prior ordinance refers to this as Solid Waste Manager. Current SWD is a Director and was hired as such. We discussed using the term "Head of Solid Waste Department", but as definition of SWD would cover any person who might hold those responsibilities who might be hired at the Manager level.
- Definition of transfer station (and recycling facility) was changed from constructed and managed by the Town to designated and managed by the Town. This would enable

flexibility for Town for facility. At some point should the Town outsource this responsibility (e.g. combine with neighboring towns) as the town will appoint a party to manage in their place this definition would still hold.

- Added a definition for waterways
- Section 5 has been simplified.
- There was a great deal of discussion about waste material generated in town. Public input gave example of Amazon packaging that is not manufactured within the town. Discussion cited that the packaging is not considered waste until it is no longer used for its original purpose thus becomes waste within Bowdoinham. We did discuss changing this to waste generated by residents, however we have had situations where residents bring recycling generated at their place of business which is not in Bowdoinham. As this costs the Town money it was decided to leave the provision as 'waste generated in town', but to specifically highlight this for legal review to make sure we are not inadvertently including things we don't intend.
- Added caveat on trash being collected on all 'accessible' public roads and added that public road may be deemed inaccessible if approved by Select Board. There are one or two public roads that the current hauler cannot navigate as they are narrow and/or do not have a place where hauler can turn their truck around.
- We eliminated the requirement for private recycling facilities to report back to SWD, but did include town will identify requested information in writing from facility. theTown reports statistics back to the State and including this information gives amore complete picture.
- Discussion about charging for recycling; one public comment opined this might be eliminated as sorted recycling brings more funding than single source (per commenter) thus charging for single stream might direct citizens to facilities who sort. According to the SWD there is currently not difference in pricing for sorted vs. single stream recyclables. The Town currently does sort corrected cardboard as there is a market for that, and is capable of doing further sorting should a market develop for other recyclables so we would be poised to take advantage of sorting. There was concern that charging for recycling will reduce the amount of material recycled, which is in opposition to the environmental purpose clause as well as the State's policy to promote recycling (as stated in §8.1). This would also be inconsistent with public input from recent surveys. Should circumstances change we could in the future amend this ordinance to allow for charging for recycling; however we believe this will be unlikely, particularly as EPR payments start in 2027.

The next steps is to sent the updated draft ordinance to the TM for legal review, we are looking for legal input in time for our 2/14/2024 meeting. At that time we can update based on legal input then have final public hearing and bring to Select Board.

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

With minor changes the minutes of the 1/24/2024 public input session were approved.

SELF SUSTAINING TRASH TAG CALCULATIONS

Several calculations for what a self-sustaining trash tag price were discussed. Variables discussed included whether to include any portion of SWD personnel costs. After discussion the conclusion was that SWD personnel were allocated to recycling, not trash. However, there is some administration and oversight costs (e.g. printing trash tags and SWD involvement in contract oversight and when they need to deal with trash thrown on side of road). For that reason we will include a \$2,500 figure to cover those costs.

The SWD is currently negotiating with trash disposal operations to try to beat our current \$115/ton rate and believes he will have some success in doing so, unfortunately those figures are not yet available.

It was agreed that the self-sustaining level should be rounded to the nearest \$.25 for administration purposes.

The exhibit on this will be updated with this input and we will look for inclusion on future Select Board meeting to present.

SUBSIDY PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS WHO MAY NEED ASSISTANCE

While Bowdoinham has several assistance programs, General Assistance and Bowdoinham Food Pantry (BFP), it was agreed that there is overlap and residents who qualify for General Assistance are likely patrons of BFP. We looked to develop a program that leverages BFP thus eliminating any need for the town to develop separate administration for a program.

Based on figures provided by the BFP we will recommend providing a 50% discount to the BFP for tickets they purchase to distribute to their patrons. This program will have a cap, set at approximately the number of tickets they provide currently.

The exhibit on this will be updated with this input and we will look for inclusion on future Select Board meeting to present.