

Solid Waste & Recycling Report

September 22, 2020

Prepared by Nicole Briand, Interim Town Manager

Update

As you know, we received a recommendation letter from Calderwood Engineering on September 11, 2020 stating that the recycling barn is unsafe to operate in under current conditions, (*please see attached*). For us to safely operate in the barn at this time, all storage, exceeding the floor weight limits, would need to be removed from the 2nd and 3rd floors. We have been removing our items from the 2nd and 3rd floors and hope to have those lease areas emptied within the next two weeks.

Additionally, the roof trusses would need to be upgraded, per the 2013 Calderwood report, in order for us to operate in the Barn during the winter months, November 1st – May 1st. While we are at this location, employees will still need to use the Barn for bathroom facilities and to get out of the weather. Therefore, we will need to move our recycling dumpster operation to another location for November 1st to May 1st, so that our employees will not have to enter the Barn.

For the time being, we have two “silver bullet” recycling dumpsters in the parking lot at the Recycling Barn. The following items can be placed in the Silver Bullet (they do not need to be sorted):

- Corrugated cardboard including brown paper bags, cardboard must be broken down.
- Mixed recyclables to include, tin cans, plastic household containers #1 - #7 and aluminum foil,
- Mixed paper to include, newsprint, magazines, office paper, cereal boxes and any other paperboard boxes, clean tissues and paper plates.

We cannot take other items at this time. There is a \$360 charge for each dumpster to be emptied. We are looking at alternatives for handling cardboard, as it is taking up the majority of the space in the dumpsters.

Temporary Location Options

We need to move our recycling dumpsters to a new location by November 1st. I have looked into three possible locations:

- Maily Waterfront Park –
 - Facilities – We have the harbor master building and restroom facilities for employees.
 - Permitting – We would need a Tier I Site Plan Review approval from the Town. We would not need an Entrance Permit from MaineDOT.
 - For consideration – We would be taking up the railroad side of the park for our recycling operation, so we’d need to limit our co-use of the park to November 1st to May 1st.
- Public Works Facility –
 - Facilities – Employees would be sharing facilities with Public Works.

- Permitting – We would need a Tier I Site Plan Review approval from the Town and we would need an Entrance Permit from MaineDOT.
- For consideration – We’d have public coming into the public works area, while public works is operating, possibly during snow storms.
- Waterfront (old Public Works site) –
 - Facilities – Employees would need to use the restrooms at Maily Waterfront Park and we’d need to rent an office trailer for employees to get out of the weather. We’ve received a quote for a 20 x 8 heated office trailer, which would cost:
 - Monthly rental- \$275 per month
 - Blocking- \$275 one-time fee
 - Stairs- \$35 per month
 - Delivery/pickup- \$400 per trip
 - Permitting – We would need a Tier I Site Plan Review approval from the Town and we would need an Entrance Permit from MaineDOT.
 - For consideration – We’d have ample space to set-up our temporary operation. We would not be interfering with other facilities so we would not have any pressing timing issues.

In order to move our operations, I need a decision on the temporary location by the Board’s October 13th meeting at the latest. Once a decision is made on the new location, we will inform folks of the program changes through our website, facebook page and The Bowdoinham News.

Timeline

Current to November 1st:

- Operating outside a Recycling Barn.
- Staff is working to remove items from 2nd and 3rd floors.
- Permitting for winter location.
- Feasibility Study with Pine Tree Engineering on re-locating Solid Waste & Recycling next to Public Works on Pond Road.

November 1st to March 1st:

- Operate at temporary winter location.
- Design and permit new Solid Waste & Recycling location on Pond Road. At a minimum, will we need a Site Plan Review permit from the Planning Board, an Entrance permit from MaineDOT and an amendment to our Stormwater Permit with MaineDEP. We will be limited to the amount of impervious area we can permit as this time, as we need to keep are overall impervious area (including public works) under three acres due to Site Location of Development permitting through Maine DEP. I recommend that we permit the largest gravel pad area we can, while remaining under the threshold for Site Location permitting for this first phase.

March 1st to May 1st:

- Continue operating at temporary winter location.
- Special Town Meeting in March or April to appropriate funding for repairing the Recycling Barn and/or constructing the permitted gravel pad area.

OR March 1st to or September 1st:

- Continue operating at temporary winter location.
- June Town Meeting to appropriate funding for repairing the Recycling Barn and/or constructing future Solid Waste & Recycling facility.

- Design and permit the future Solid Waste & Recycling facility. I would recommend that the Solid Waste Committee work on this project with Town Staff and Pine Tree Engineering. What is needed for facilities? Does the town want a building for a swap shop? To process cardboard or other materials? What is needed for storage? We will need a Site Location of Development permit, which will be a minimum of six months.
- If we take this dual approach the Town could be paying for design and permitting for both a temporary operation and future operation before a decision is made on the funding the Barn repairs, if that decision will be going to voters at a Town Meeting.

Town Meeting to May/September 1st:

- Move back into Barn OR
- Construct permitted gravel pad area for temporary recycling operation.

May/September 1st:

- Move to new location on Pond Road with temporary operations (recycling dumpsters, temporary structures, etc). Employees would be sharing facilities with Public Works.
- Continue design and permitting the future Solid Waste & Recycling facility.

June 2022

- Appropriate funding for new Solid Waste & Recycling Facility, if not completed in June 2021.

Curbside Recycling Pick-up

Under this new system, our employees will be processing the curbside recycling into the silver bullets. Materials are coming in on Thursday and are being processed on Monday. We are reviewing both the time needed for staff to process the recyclables and the amount of contamination received (how many bags of trash are we having to dispose of). Another option, instead of curbside pick-up, would be to open additional hours for recycling drop-off. We could open for a 4-6 hour, afternoon/evening shift to allow more time for residents to drop-off their materials, possibly a Tuesday evening to allow time for Casella to empty our silver bullets, if needed.