**Solid Waste Committee**

**May 19, 2021 Minutes**

**Present:** Cathy Curtis, Susan Brown, Susan Drucker, Patrick McDonough, Michael Smith, “Stephen”, Jacinta Wilkins-Blodgett, Betsy Steen, Paul Denis, David Berry, Martha Cushing.

**Call to Order:** Cathy Curtis calls the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** No amendments.

**Old Business**

**Approval of May 5, 2021 Minutes**: Susan Drucker (secretary) updates the Committee on the revised process of posting addenda items on the town website separately from the minutes. She reports that the new process has created extra steps for her and Bryan Benson and the end results have been somewhat haphazard. She asks if it would be alright to go back to the former protocol (keeping addenda only in the minutes). Members concur. Patrick McDonough motions to accept the minutes; Michael Smith seconds; all approve.

**Review any Information from the May 11, 2021 Select Board Meeting as it Pertains to the Committee:** Cathy Curtis reports that recycling facility issues were discussed as part of the Town Warrant Public Hearing, and that Town Meeting will be held outside (under tents) at the Community School on June 9th.

**Program Updates from Bryan Benson:** Bryan Benson is not at the meeting due to illness. Jacinta Wilkins-Blodgett reports that she knows Bryan Benson had things he had wanted to say, but that she “wasn’t sure how he was going to present them” and she didn’t want to “step on toes.” She thanks the Committee for their work.

**Town Report Chapters:**

**Hazardous Waste Chapter:** Susan Drucker comments that she thought the Committee had gathered at least some information about the “Time Stored” component of the spreadsheet and asks if that column can be filled in. Cathy Curtis notes that it would be hard to “pull up quickly what those answers would be without Bryan” and suggests we switch to another document.

Discussion about the Committee’s hopes that the report would be finalized at this meeting and how that will be difficult without Bryan Benson’s input. Cathy Curtis suggests “we go as far as we can tonight” and that she could possibly meet up in smaller groups with whomever would be available sometime next weekend/week to get the chapters ready for a final review by the Committee at our next meeting. Susan Brown says that she can meet with Cathy Curtis at the beginning of the week; Susan Drucker explains why she will not be able to meet at all next week; Patrick McDonough says that he can meet with Cathy Curtis on Sunday the 23rd.

**Town by Town Chapter:** Document is reviewed, fact-checked, and edited.

In reference to the chapter’s overview of Bowdoinham’s recycling program, discussion about how often the Silver Bullets containers are picked up; eventual answer is that the 2021-22 budget includes 56 pick-ups, or approximately 4 pick-ups each month. Jacinta Wilkins-Blodgett notes that the amount of pick-ups could increase slightly once David Berry’s Source-Separation Pilot Program ends.

David Berry suggests that it would be helpful for the Committee to ask the Town Manager for the amount of recycling tonnage that has been disposed of since the Silver Bullet program began. He explains that it would be useful to be able to compare the market price of recyclable materials on a per ton basis with the per ton cost of the town sending out single-stream materials. Discussion as to whether Silver Bullet containers are weighed (and a possible tipping fee added) when they arrive at Casella, or if it is just a flat fee per container regardless of weight. David Berry notes that Eli Rubin had told him that those tonnage numbers are available, but that David Berry would need to contact the Town Manager to get them. Cathy Curtis says that she will ask the Town Manager for those numbers.

In reference to Solid Waste and Recycling budgets, discussion as to whether it is useful to include other town’s budget totals knowing that services and budget procedures can vary widely between towns; decision to offer the lowest and highest budgets for context along with an explanation about the variables. At Susan Brown’s suggestion, the Committee notes that when we begin talking about Best Practices, it will be important to look into whether other towns employ full or part-time Solid Waste Directors.

**Survey Chapter:** Document is reviewed, fact-checked, and partially edited.

**Follow-Up Items**: Sub-Committees will meet and/or correspond over the course of the next week to continue editing documents; Susan Drucker will not be able to meet, but will send an edit sheet for the documents that weren’t editable on the Committee’s Drive. Cathy Curtis hopes that by the time we get to the next meeting, we will be able to “have a pretty close document,” ready to finalize and “hand over to the Select Board” by meeting’s end.

**Public Comments**: No public comments.

**Next Meeting:** June 2, 2021 at 5:30pm.

**Adjournment:** Cathy Curtis adjourns the meeting at 7:09pm.