

## SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE - March 27, 2024 Minutes

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

### PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the 3/6/2024 meeting were approved.

### UPDATES

From Solid Waste Director: Bryan updated from recent conversations with TM. Also one of the old recycling silver bullets is getting taken away. We will keep the remaining one as a contingent for cases where the recycling compactor may not be able to be used (e.g. power failure).

From 3/26/3034 Select Board Meeting: After much discussion the Select Board voted to move forward with applying for a Transfer Station License. The vote from the SB was 3 for, 1 against and 1 absent.

There was discussion regarding the bulky waste program. Subsequent to the SB meeting the Board (or TM) asked for figures on what was collected in bulky waste vs. revenue for that. Bryan will provide that to TM and will provide to the committee after.

Update on Subsidy Program: Wendy checked with Nicole regarding a trash tag subsidy program that both meets the legal requirement that the program has some set definitions for eligibility, etc. and presenting no/minimal administrative burden for the Town Office. Some of the discussion was around possibly leveraging some State programs, e.g. if a resident has a WIC card they can get trash tags. To manage numbers, etc. Nicole suggested possibly mailing the trash tags. We are going to try to have someone from the Town Office who can help with the program administration come to our 5/8/2024 meeting to work through this.

## DRAFT ORDINANCE UPDATES

Recycling stickers: The SB has asked about usage for recycling. One idea to quantify is to make the permits to enter the facility be on an annual basis for a nominal fee (e.g. \$10). We need to make the new ordinance flexible enough to accommodate this. Currently the draft states there will be no fees for bringing recycling material, but doesn't state anything regarding fees under the permit section. We will add wording about potential fees, to be set by SB, in the permit section.

Hauler fee: Legal review indicated there needed to be some type of administrative process in place for the Town to charge these haulers and the discussion was whether or not it was worth establishing/improving process for the minimal revenue we receive. Currently we have ≈ 4 haulers, i.e. \$400/year, operating in town. Per SW Director he believes it is worth it to establish/improve process to facilitate obtaining information we need to report trash statistics for the entire town back to the State as required.

Bryan will send us the current application [DONE] and we will work to edit it to meet standards. For example;

- We could ask about insurances,
- We could cite ordinance regulations about type of trucks (e.g. no leak),
- We could indicate must be signed, under penalty of perjury, that information provided is true, and/or,
- We could indicate the hauler holds the town harmless if/as necessary.

## NEXT STEPS

As effective date has been postponed we have more opportunity for public hearings. We discussed having a public hearing on May 15 [UPDATE - TOWN MANAGER HAS REQUESTED NO PUBLIC MEETINGS UNTIL AFTER TOWN MEETING ON JUNE 1].

After public meeting we will need to present final draft to Select Board, then need to plan for when we could hold a special town meeting. Suggestion was made to see if we could put Ordinance approval on the November ballot (**Bryan will pursue with TM**) or if we do need a separate meeting. [UPDATE, IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE IT ON THE BALLOT, BUT THERE ARE REQUIREMENTS TO DO SO, SW DIRECTOR WILL LET US KNOW WHAT THOSE REQUIREMENTS ARE AT NEXT MEETING.]

The committees next projects include:

- Developing the ancillary documents and lists needed for the new ordinance, e.g. in all the places we note 'information available on the Town's website' we need to make sure we have those lists/documents. Wendy will review draft to identify places where we refer to ancillary documents that will need to be developed/maintained.

- How do we replace our current municipal hauler. Ideas can include reaching out to neighboring towns to see who they use then contacting those haulers. Another idea would be should we in-source - would require investment in equipment. According to SW Director a used garbage truck might be  $\approx$  \$30,000 - while the equipment might not be difficult need to quantify staffing, etc. Committee members will come to next meeting with ideas on how to tackle this project, but based on timing we need to begin that initiative soon.
- Another initiative is to improve communication of the program, possibly to be able to improve recycling rates/compliance - e.g. taking film labels off of plastic recycling bottles may be a fact people don't know about.

#### NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 10 (Paul D. will not be available and will get his ideas to another committee member prior to the meeting). Meeting after that is April 24, 2024.