

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE - August 9, 2023 Minutes

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

Committee Officers:

Chair: Wendy Cunningham

Vice Chair: Paul Denis

Secretary: No Secretary was appointed - Wendy agreed to take minutes for this meeting.

Trash and Recycling Service (pick-up and/or disposal) (Dec 2023):

Plummer, the vendor the Town uses for trash pick-up and disposal is retiring at the end of 2023. The Town will need to contract for a new vendor starting in 2024 and will need to conduct an RFP (Request for Proposal) process to identify and recommend a new vendor for the Town. According to Bryan there are several other vendors in the area to consider.

There was some discussion on whether to go through a formal RFP process or a more casual process, potentially even through a phone process. **Bryan was going to verify with the Town Manager that we do not need to do a formal RFP.**

The concern with an involved formal RFP process is that some vendors may choose not to respond essentially narrowing down our choices. Final decision on process will be made in future meeting.

Regardless of the process used all vendors should be given the same information on the Town's specifications to facilitate a 'like to like' evaluation. Information should include information like tonnage and mileage (driving distance for vendor). **Bryan to compile.** Other information the committee would like consider from the current program includes cost vs. revenue.

**Bryan will also solicit information from other municipalities nearby and/or similar to Bowdoinham including how they handle trash functions, their satisfaction with their models and their current vendors.**

There are State regulations and mandates that apply to municipalities regarding handling of solid waste. §1305 of Title 38, Chapter 13: Waste Management, states; "1. Each municipality shall provide solid waste disposal services for domestic and commercial solid waste generates within the municipality ..." This Section appears to be broadly defined in that municipalities can meet the requirement in many different ways, however the Town is responsible for facilitating the process. We agreed that our recommendation will meet this criteria. For your information here is a link to Title 38, Chapter 13: Waste Management (<https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/38/title38ch13sec0.html>)

#### Review and update 1994 Solid Waste Ordinance (March 2024):

The other main task of the Solid Waste Committee will be to propose an update to the current Solid Waste Ordinance. Bryan provided copies of that document to us. There was discussion on how to approach, including:

- Focusing on the 'what' to have done vs. 'how' to accomplish the goals. This will allow the town to be more flexible in meeting the Ordinance requirements as circumstances may change in the future.
- Possibly using a 'Whereas' or 'Recital' section laying out the underlying principles used in crafting the Ordinance. Examples discussed, included:
  - Bowdoinham believes in recycling for the environmental benefits.
    - Further discussion on this point was the commitment of the town in monetary terms. For example if the program costs more than selling recyclables how much more is acceptable to the town:
    - If the concern is the environment how does the town ensure our recyclables are being disposed in an environmentally responsible way.
  - Bowdoinham is an age friendly community (thus our programs should be age friendly)
  - Bowdoinham will adhere to State Statutes (see above) with their solid waste program(s)

Please note these were only discussed as examples, and are not necessarily what will be included in the final recommendation.

- Making clear there are two categories of Solid Waste; trash and recycling.
- We will not make recommendations on 'where' either Solid Waste program is to happen, but can make recommendations on the required conditions of the facilities where the programs are carried out, including environmental, structural, and Maine State OSHA requirements for municipal employees concerns.

There was also discussion on how to get public input on the new ordinance. A survey was held several years ago, **Bryan will obtain copies of that survey for the committee (please note the survey results are also available on the Town's website).** We may want to update that survey. We discussed how surveys can be biased and committed to negate that to the extent possible with any update. Also discussed was the possibility of having public hearings.

Future Meetings:

Given the work that needs to be done and the deadlines for that work to be complete is was decided the committee should meet twice a month. It was suggested the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM would be a schedule that worked for those present. We will verify with members not able to make this meeting to ensure schedule works for them.

**Members of the Committee will explore documents/information on Solid Waste on the Town's website. Here is a link for convenience: <https://www.bowdoinham.com/SWR>**

**NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 23 at 6:00 PM**