**Solid Waste Committee Meeting**

**November 25, 2020**

**Minutes**

(**Please Note: Due to a video recording error, Minutes are approximate.)**

**Present:** Cathy Curtis, Bryan Benson, Tessa Kingsley, Patrick McDonough, Michael Smith, Susan Drucker, Susan Brown, Betsy Steen, David Berry, Eli Rubin, Seth Berry.

**Call to Order:** Cathy Curtis opens the meeting at 5:30; quorum is established.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** Suggestion that with the meeting taking place on Thanksgiving Eve, that the committee limit discussions to topics that are timely. Agenda items that are not timely will be tabled until the upcoming 12/9 meeting.

**Approval of the Minutes from November 12:** All members approve.

**11/24 Select Board Meeting as it pertains to the Solid Waste Committee:**

- Discussion of Select Board’s approval of a $24,000 study/survey of the Pond Road Public Works land as a possible future location for a recycling facility.

- Question as to why the original assessment for using the Public Works site as a temporary recycling facility location included two timeframes for beginning operations: one line states 3 - 6 weeks, while another line indicates 2 - 4 months. Susan Drucker will follow up with the town manager about the discrepancy.

- Temporary facility will be ready to open to the public on December 3rd.

**Town Recycling Survey:** Discussion of contents, order, goals, and distribution of town-wide recycling survey. Survey should be complete by our next meeting on 12/9, in time for the 12/15 newsletter deadline.

**Committee Work Schedule:** See Addendum 2.

**Times Record Outreach:** Lisa Wesel will work on presenting the committee’s work to the Times Record, with an emphasis on alerting residents to the upcoming survey.

**EcoMaine Follow-up:** Tessa Kingsley provides an overview of EcoMaine’s services (see Addendum 1), and members agree that setting up an informational meeting with the organization during our January 6th will be useful.

**Public Comment:** No public comments.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 9, 5:30.

**Cathy Curtis adjourns meeting at 6:30.**

**Addendum 1:** EcoMaine Overview:

* Municipally owned non-profit organization

Revenue/cost sharing calculated at end of fiscal year returned at $.80 on the dollar

* Contracts are available ranging from 3-20year
* Organization goals include sustainable waste management, landfill diversion, and energy production

Tipping Fees

* Trash………...$79/ton

Annual CPI increase capped at 7%

* Recycling…….$95/ton

Zero-sort or baled options, glass accepted

Warning for contamination starting at 3%

Tiered charge for contamination starting at 5%

* Silver Bullet containers available

Containers available for free, but we provide transport and pay recycling tipping fee

Waste-to-Energy (WTE)

* Trash is combusted resulting in 90% volume reduction prior to being transported to EcoMaine’s (174 acre) landfill. Ash is capped with crushed glass from the recycling program.
* Combustion process produces 96% water vapor, heavy metals are scrubbed as well as acid gasses and nox
* “The ecomaine WTE plant processes about 175,000 tons of trash a year and, from that process, generates enough steam to create about 100,000 megawatt-hours of electricity annually. That’s enough electricity to power our WTE and recycling facilities, our company’s electric vehicles, plus about 15,000 homes for a year!”

Resources

* EcoMaine offers ongoing facility and collection personnel training
* Education materials for the community to improve programming and contamination rates
* 100 free 22gal bins for curbside collection with additional bins at cost ($6-8/bin)
* Educational grant opportunities for our Bowdoinham Community School

(Contact: Lissa Bittermann, Business Development Manager, bittermann@ecomaine.org, 523-3119)

**Addendum 2:** Committee Work Schedule:

