

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE - May 9, 2024 Minutes

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

PRIOR MINUTES

Minutes from 5/8/24 were approved (3-0). Paul D. abstained as he was not at the 5/8 meeting.

UPDATE FROM SW DIRECTOR

Regarding obtaining a transfer station license; there was a DEP site visit last Thursday (5/23) and they hope to get a written update from DEP this week.

Update on possible PAYT (Pay As You Throw) subsidy program. We connected with the Bowdoinham Food Pantry (BFP) to see if they can be distribution for trash tags that are donated. The Town would step up efforts to donate tickets. Unfortunately at this point the BFP is concerned that doing this would result in clients who only come in for trash tags so are reluctant to participate.

Without a distribution outlet we may not be able to organize a trash tag subsidy program. We have found through our conversations with other towns on their trash tags that none of the towns with a PAYT program have a subsidy effort. That said the federal EPA does recommended some type of subsidy for lower income citizens. Paul D is going to reach out to someone on the BFP Board to get further insight into their reluctance.

PROGRESS UPDATE ON OUTREACH TO OTHER TOWNS RE: THEIR TRASH PROGRAM

Paul D., Paul T., Pat and Wendy have submitted their write up from their towns. Bryan is going to keep Brunswick and Topsham and handed in write up on Richmond (who handles some of Dresden's recycling so there is some information from there too). Wendy will reach out to other Towns - Paul D. has volunteered to help on this also if/as needed.

Interesting trends so far:

- Very few towns have curbside pick-up. One town that does have it (Pownal) uses Casella and citizens are not particularly satisfied with that.
- Most towns have a transfer station model where citizens bring trash to the transfer station (Bowdoinham is working on a transfer station license). Bowdoinham used to have a town dump model, which is much like yesterday's version of the transfer station model.
- Funding is across the board, some use PAYT, others have it covered in general taxes.

Wendy will start putting together a side-by-side document that we can work from.

#### DRAFT ORDINANCE, RULES AND LISTS - UPDATE FOR 6/12 PUBLIC MEETING

Draft Ordinance and Rules dated 5.28.24 is most recent. Updates include:

- Removal of subsidy program language - while we still want to have a program to help economically challenged residents we can do that without it in the ordinance
- Removal of references to limit of 2 permits/household
- Moving language on private roads and container limits for the curbside program from ordinance to Rules.

Committee members believe they're all set but want to take time to do one more review. As we don't have a meeting before the public comment session committee members will individually identify possible areas to address to Wendy who can incorporate. This will be done by this week and by Tuesday Wendy will make sure Bryan has the most recent versions to post.

Lists - this was the first time we reviewed the draft list document and there were changes outlined, including:

- Brown paper bags should be placed in the Cardboard Pallet Box
- We should specify used tissues in the biological waste comment
- Add electrical ballasts, nickel-cadmium batteries and move non-chargeable lithium batteries up to 'also accepted'
- outline no propane containers unless empty (with hole in them) - this includes the small ones, empty ones can be metal recycle
- note that aerosol cans cannot be accepted unless empty (includes paint, hairspray, etc.)
- Add a note on freon to contact SWD
- Bryan provided language for construction waste
- Non-standard waste - contact the department
- add bulky waste only 2x annually and to contact department for dates
- add non-standard to contact department
- adding 'draft' designation to document

Wendy will update the list and will ask the recycling attendants for any input, including what's on the white board. Then send to the committee, we will need to publish this draft also for the public comment session.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION - 6/12/2024

We are looking to have TM (or someone) make announcement about our public comment/input session to try to make sure we have good participation.

Documents, including draft list, to be ready no later than end of day next Tuesday.

Paul D. and Paul T. may be late to the session as they will be out of town on that day, but they will try to be there as soon as possible.

#### NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is the public comment/input session on 6/12 - depending on how long that piece of the meeting goes we may also discuss the Towns' comparison, but that is still tentative at that point.

We are trying to step down the frequency of meetings through the summer months while still making progress on the critical issues we need to, including:

- steps needed to get the revised ordinance on the November ballot
- steps needed to make sure we're ready with a new trash model for after Plummer retires.