

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE - July 17, 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 MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from 6/12/2024 approved with the following correction, p. 2 ¶3, instead of 'interrupted at', the text should read, 'interpreted as'. Correction made, finalized minutes sent to Bryan for publication.

UPDATE FROM SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

The State is looking for a transfer station plan to be completed prior to application. Bryan is working on developing plan. Current placement thought for transfer station location (within the Pond Road facility) is between the fuel shed and salt shed. Please note while this is the plan it is not yet 100% final.

Bryan has also been looking at truck pricing (needed to show the option of the Town taking on trash collection as one option for when Plummer retires). Most of the used trucks he's seeing are south of us, e.g. in NY, NJ area. General cost appears to be ≈ \$30K - \$50K. One truck he saw, in PA, had only 69K original miles (truck was older) but included 4 dumpsters and was priced at \$39K.

LEGAL INPUT TO NEW ORDINANCE AND RULES DOCUMENT

The legal comments were minimal and will be accepted with one exception. Legal asked about the private roads definition being in Rules vs. Ordinance where it was originally drafted. Note, this was not a legal opinion but a question from the attorney. The SWC moved the 'how' of exciting SW in Town to the Rules document, e.g. specifying it was curbside collection is in Rules, the Ordinance only states there will be a program. As the language around public/private road collection deals with collection and should be located with the collection method.

The following was agreed to;

- Wendy will make changes as indicated by legal then send to Committee and TM, and
- We will get on the SB agenda to present at earliest convenience.

We also discussed Materials list. As that doesn't need SB approval Bryan will look to post the new materials list as it's a bit more comprehensive than the current one. Due to public access rules the old list will still be available, but can be archived. Wendy will laminate a copy and get it over to recycling so they can post on the door (like they have the old one).

PRESENTATION TO SELECT BOARD

The draft presentation was set up to flow as follows:

1. Outline how ordinances can be amended/changed in accordance to Maine State law.
2. Cite examples of where the 1994 Ordinance is no longer being complied with.
3. Show the goals of creating the new ordinance, e.g. not to change current processes, but to provide an appropriate and flexible legal foundation for SW in Bowdoinham.
4. Show the process used in creating the 2025 Ordinance
5. Show the structure of the new documents, e.g. flexibility
6. Q & A

Discussion as to whether to include next steps for our committee, we do expect that subject to come up, but probably don't need a slide for this.

Anticipate subject of recycling to be brought up; we did create slides on recycling in Bowdoinham for the 3/26/2024 SB meeting (that meeting was to get approval to apply for transfer station license), and while we won't republish we will have those on hand to refer to if/as the subject of recycling comes up.

Anticipate many questions, but feel we are prepared. Draft presentation was approved 4-0.

We also discussed putting an article into the Bowdoinham News prior to election day. The deadline to do that is 7/31 at 4:00PM. Wendy will draft an article and send to the Committee. As we do not meet until after the deadline members with suggestions will call Wendy (as this does not represent a quorum) to provide that feedback.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Recently on FB, the Recycling Barn published an article stating material sent to recycling doesn't necessarily get recycled. A recent NPR report stated: "A recent Greenpeace report found that people may be putting plastic into recycling bins - but the amount a plastic transferred into new items in the U.S. is at a new roughly 5-6% low."

This is disappointing, certainly the Barn, as a private recycling facility, can do as they wish with their recycling (within State regs, and we have no reason to believe they are operating outside of those regs), but opining on how the Town recycles seems to be a bit out of their area even though they have every right to do so.

As a Town, we have visited the recycling facility to see how recycling is done. Also it is our duty to transport recycling to the facility, the Town does not specifically do the recycling ourselves. That said should we find an alternative recycling facility that has a better recycling 'rating' than our current we would definitely look into changing, pending Town Meeting vote on cost difference if/as applicable.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be August 7, 2024 at 6:00PM (Paul T will not be able to attend). Topic will be how to proceed with models to approach trash after Plummer retires. There are a couple of options to explore:

- Bringing trash collection in-house,
- Contracting trash collection to another company
 - Casella with mechanized collection (Wendy will try to get more info on this prior to 8/7)
 - Are there other contractors, maybe one we found when talking with other towns? At this point we don't think this is likely, but will explore
- Change model to having citizens bring their trash to a central facility, i.e. transfer station.