SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE - 10.23.2024 Minutes

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

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the 8/28/2024 meeting were approved.

UPDATE FROM SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

Bryan is deep into operation manual for application package for transfer station (100+ pages at this point). Next move TM and Bryan will unofficially meet with DEP to get an idea of what they think prior to official submitting application.

UPDATE FROM PUBILC HEARING

There were no comments from the public during the 10/8/2024 Select Board meeting regarding the SW Ordinance. The one comment came from Select Board member Alan Acker who was concerned this was happening during Election Day vs Town Meeting as it has never been done that way before.

COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

While there were no 'live' comments from the public on the Ordinance we did received a couple comments (via phone at different time) from Seth Berry regarding a couple tweaks that may be improvements including:

- The dumping language covers residents, but may have left out non-residents.
- Pesticides - through the definition we may have inadvertently included farmers in a way not intended. We explicitly messaged to legal that we did NOT want to impede Bowdoinham farmers in any way (excerpt from that email below) so maybe need so tweaks to make sure that goal is achieved.

With this in mind the Committee agreed that we would work on amended language that could be ready for the June, 2024 Town Meeting. Ordinances are meant to be 'living documents' that are updated periodically to meet current needs that may not have been clear at time of drafting. As we have done a very good job on this there may be places that could be tweaked.

From a 2/5/2024 9:01AM email from Wendy to Nicole:

Good morning NIcole,

Attached please find the current revision of the Solid Waste Ordinance (2/3/2024 v.6) for legal review. We are looking for legal feedback by our next SWC meeting, 2/14/2024 at 6:00pm, and are willing to take the feedback in which ever form works best for legal; either in writing (I've attached both a Word and PDF version for them) or if it's easier they can just Zoom into that meeting. Please let us know what form their feedback will be.

While we are looking for a review in entirety there are a couple of specific questions we'd appreciate any feedback on:

1. We've had feedback from several local farmers on concerns the prior draft inadvertently caught their agricultural by products in violation (e.g. one concern was sometimes their agricultural by products come from fields outside of Bowdoinham's municipal limits as they will co-mingle from all fields they own, regardless of whether or not field crosses the municipal border). We have removed any reference to agricultural waste from the ordinance as we do NOT want to get in the way of any local farmers. There are State laws covering farming and we believe the town can rely on those laws without adding anything to this ordinance. Can legal please confirm we have not inadvertently pulled farming into this ordinance in a way that could be detrimental to local farmers?

We agreed to look at possible amendments in our next meeting - also to ask public if there is anything else. If the Ordinance does not pass on Election Day we will amend for full Ordinance approval in June Town Meeting, if it does pass these will be amendments.

DRAFT PRESENTATION FOR SELECT BOARD FOR AFTER ELECTION DAY

As a Committee we have accomplished most of what we were charged with by the Select Board. This presentation has 2 purposes; providing information to new SB member (one seat will change) and, providing comprehensive overview of all before committee steps back our meeting schedule (see below). Comments on the draft presentation:

- Date of SB meeting to do presentation changed to November 26, 2024

- For recycling slides add revenue we receive from cardboard and metal - while Bryan will send a note to Kelly to get a more accurate number, but Bryan estimates the annual revenue for these 2 categories is ≈ $8,000
- For Transfer Station drop off model, we do not need (or want) a compacting dumpster - that would leak and require cement pads, etc - but what we actually need are just regular dumpsters which Bryan estimates would cost between $1K - $5K each. Will use $3K as estimate for presentation - we would need 2 dumpsters
- Last slide remove word 'indefinitely' from first bullet and the words 'to evaluate' from 3rd bullet.

Changes will be made and can finally review during next SWC meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

There has been some negative social media posts recommending voting against the Ordinance. Wendy, on a personal basis, not as part of the Committee, will be making a positive post and was looking for input. Briefly that post laid out:
- why the Ordinance was on the November ballot,
- process used to develop ordinance,
- why public should support,
- what happens next, and
- thoughts on transfer station.

One of the negative posts cited the experience with Land Use Ordinance and why having that ordinance up at Town Meeting was positive. Unfortunately this is a false equivalency as the LUO was ≈250 pages long and had some drastic change in it. The SWO is 8 pages and advocates NO changes in current processes.

NEXT MEETING(S)

The next SWC meeting is set for **November 13, 2024 at 6:30PM** (please note different time than usual).

As the Committee has pretty much finished our charge we have decided to schedule regular meetings only on a quarterly basis (4X annually), but to be available on an ad hoc basis should any SW issues arise.

One issue we'd talked about helping with in the future is communication, however Wendy can work with Bryan on that individually (e.g. like a consultant).