

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE - November 13, 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

The minutes from 10/23/2024 were approved. In addition as the next SWC meeting won't be held until after the first of the year it was approved that the minutes for tonight's meeting will be published in draft form. After they are approved (with or without edits) at next meeting the draft minutes will be replaced with the approved ones.

UPDATE FROM SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

Still working on the manual required for the transfer station license - it's a very long and involved document. The plan is for Nicole and Bryan to bring this to DEP on an unofficial basis to gather input before the official version is submitted. Bryan is working on several options in approach and they will submit the option that is viewed most favorably by the DEP during the unofficial discussion. This will make it easier for DEP to approve the official submission.

FYI revenues for corrugated cardboard and metal for the past 3 months is \approx \$3K, meaning the \$8K we used as a figure in the SB presentation is probably a bit understated.

UPDATE FROM SELECT BOARD MEETING

SWC presented to the Select Board during their 11/12/24 meeting. The presentation was a combination of current status on solid waste and possible options for a trash model if/as our current Municipal Hauler (Plummer) is no longer an option.

There was, as expected, some comments from a SB member along the lines of, 'Bowdoinham doesn't contribute to landfills getting to capacity as our trash is burned' as we discussed status of recycling in Bowdoinham and the State. There was also a comment regarding having citizens actually bringing their trash to the Auburn facility. Solid Waste Director addressed this as average citizens cannot bring their trash individually.

Main points of the presentation included:

- Bowdoinham citizens strongly support recycling, and elimination of that program would;
 - cause citizens to have additional trash costs as materials that could be recycled would be trashed without the option,
 - loss of future EPR revenue,
 - disproportionate impact of minimal tax savings - lower income individuals would be negatively impacted.
- Bowdoinham citizens are very satisfied with current trash program, elimination of that program would:
 - Not save any taxes as the program is fully funded on a PAYT basis, likewise changes in the program (e.g. having citizens bring trash to out of town facility) would not save taxes,
 - Cost citizens more money,
 - Potentially result in more dumped trash,
 - Cause citizens to have to 'figure it out' for themselves.

Alternate trash models presented if/as our current vendor is no longer a viable option, included:

1. Outsourcing to Casella - very expensive and does not support PAYT,
2. Bringing curbside collection in-house - price wise reasonable, but equipment and personnel considerations make this less than optional,
3. Implementing a model to citizens bringing trash to a central location - must be a licensed transfer station.

SWC recommended staying with current vendor while we can then implementing option 3 above. This would require obtaining 40 yard dumpsters. Bryan mentioned it might be possible to get a garbage truck so as soon as it fills it can be driven to the deposition site. Another thought was to look into a roll off truck that could transport both trash and recycling dumpsters thus saving us recycling money as well. We believe these decisions are years away.

As the tasks the Select Board charged the SWC with have been accomplished we informed the Board that scheduled meeting frequency was changing to quarterly with ad hoc meeting if/as needed.

In addition the SB also discussed the Rules document, outlined below are changes they are proposing:

- Changing the year 2025 to 2024 in two places,
- Eliminate 4th paragraph that pertains to 'this ordinance' (this is rules document),
- Adding holiday and severe weather schedule changes to the Collection Schedule: section,
- Under TRANSFER STATION eliminate the redundant "Town" in 1st paragraph,
- Adding bi-annual bulky trash days under RECYCLING PROGRAM,

- Temporarily Removing TRANSFER STATION section until after the transfer station license is approved.

The Select Board will hold public hearing necessary to make changes to the Rules document during their 11/26/24 (Tuesday before Thanksgiving) meeting. SWC members who are available will attend that meeting.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO ORDINANCE FOR TOWN MEETING

There were 2 suggestions for changes to the Ordinance; first replacing some language on the Dumping section to replace a list of who it applies to just using the term 'People', and second, eliminating some language around definition of Agricultural Waste as current definition inadvertently allows dumping of pesticides.

Both changes were approved to go ahead 4-0. Next steps, send to Town Manager to be quickly reviewed by Town attorney (due diligence) then brought to the Select Board to be placed on the warrant for the JuneTown Meeting. **Update, language sent to Town Manager 11/14/2024.**

NEXT MEETING

Next scheduled SWC meeting will be January 8, 2025 at 6:30PM. In the meantime Wendy (and any other SWC member) may touch base occasionally with Bryan. Should any issues arise before then we can hold an ad hoc meeting. In the meantime if anyone hears any thoughts about possible amendments to the Ordinance bring them forward and we can discuss at the meeting on 1/8/25.