

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE - September 27, 2023 Minutes

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

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the 9/13/2023 meeting were approved. *Update - finalized minutes have been sent to Bryan for publication.*

DRAFT SURVEY RESULTS - FRIENDS & FAMILY INPUT ON SURVEY TOOL

Introductory paragraph add the work 'to' between Towns ... provide.

Question 2 rewrite - there was sensitivity to the issue of tax increases based on increased tax bills that just came out. While it is true that if trash tags do not fully support the program it adds to the tax burden, and possibly increase taxes assessed, the SWC wanted to edit the last sentence. That sentence now should read; "If trash tag prices are reduced the difference would be made up through tax revenue."

Discussion on how to conduct the survey; based on cost and timing our original thought of doing a postcard survey is not feasible. While not optimal given timing, and the fact the survey is straight forward and does not deal with a controversial subject, we have decided to get input from Facebook, both the Bowdoinham Friends and Family site and the Bowdoinham Forum pages.

Due to the nature of Facebook the scales will be readjusted along the lines of, 'on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being very satisfied and 5 being Very Dissatisfied how would you rate ...' Wendy will do that work and post to the above mentioned sites. Cut off for comment would be October 8, 2023.

MAKING POND ROAD A TRANSFER STATION

Bryan reported that to make the Public Works facility on Pond Road a transfer station, the Town would need to:

- Set up a separate entrance with a gate. Per Bryan we can do this with Town employees with minimal effort, e.g. cutting a couple of trees, setting a culvert, putting in fill, etc.,
- Apply to the State get authorization to make it a transfer station,
- Get approval from the Town's Planning Board

REDLINED TRASH COLLECTOR SURVEY

The dates are still TBD and we will submit the draft RFP to the Town Manager (TM) with a TBD, but will recommend spacing between steps allowing the TM to chose timing that works based on when she is looking to publish.

Question 1 regarding adequate insurance: Bryan reported the Town does not have a specific policy with amounts. Bryan has also reached out to Casella to see if they have requirements. The Casella contact indicated he wanted to check with their legal department and have not gotten back to Bryan yet. Given this information the sentence, 'Coverage is required by the Casella Wast Systems ...' will be deleted.

New Question #5 regarding changing the trash collection model to one where a dumpster is available for residents to bring their trash (still requiring trash tickets) on one, or more, days a week. There is one question in the survey asking opinion on this change in model, but we neglected to ask if the vendor could accommodate such a model. The SWC agreed this was an appropriate addition.

All other red-lined changes were approved. Next step will be for Wendy to forward the approved RFP to the TM for any adjustments the TM deems appropriate and to release.

How to solicit bids: Bryan provided us with a list of 8 possible vendors who we can mail the RFP to (**Bryan will find the addresses, etc. to do this**). The TM would also release by publishing in newspapers and possibly on the MMA (Maine Municipal Association) website.

RFP TIMING

As per above the RFP timing will be left to the TM.

SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE NEXT STEPS

Recital/Whereas clauses: These are the statements at the beginning of a legal document stating the foundational principles for the ordinance. For example one clause might state:

- Whereas, as of the date this Ordinance was adopted the State of Maine has a Statute that states, 'Each municipality shall provide solid was disposal services for domestic and commercial solid waste generated within the municipality',
- Whereas the Town of Bowdoinham wished to make fiscally responsible choices,
- Whereas ... etc.

Other clauses might cover items identified by citizens as important, e.g. we recycle because of environmental concerns, or as recycling reduces trash that is paid for by tickets, etc.

All committee members will suggest some underlying principles that might be included in Recital section and share that with the rest of the SWC prior to our next meeting.

Confirmation - What not how or why

The SWC reiterated the new ordinance will deal with What the vision for Solid Waste in Bowdoinham is, but not restrict the town by specifying how or where that should be accomplished. For example the current Ordinance specifically lists what can be recycled, e.g. glass - that due to market changes in the over 25 years since the Ordinance was written have changed. The Ordinance also will not specify where Solid Waste activities will occur, again as times change the location of said activities may be best suited to a change in venue and we do not want to restrict the Town from making the best choices at anytime in the future.

Thoughts on pubic input on recycling

As the recycling portion of Solid Waste is of much interest to the citizens of Bowdoinham we want to make sure we are gathering appropriate input. Some tools for that include:

- A Survey, not Facebook. Prior recycling survey (done 3 years ago) was done on-line through the Town's site - per Bryan each respondent could only provide input once.
- Possibly doing a mail survey. **Bryan will check both mail and on-line survey options out with TM and report back to us at next meeting.**
- We could also hold public hearings on the issue by 'advertising' that we will be doing that at a future SWC meeting.

Member of the SWC will suggest survey topics/questions that might be included and share with the rest of the SWC prior to our next meeting.

Update from Bryan; the Town has acquired a compactor for recyclables. It is currently being refurbished, once that is done Bryan estimates that we will be able to compact what used to be 5 loads into one. As we are charged by the load this is a savings of \approx \$1,600 each load.

NEXT MEETING

Based on members schedule our next meeting will be held on MONDAY, OCTOBER 16 AT 6:00PM. This meeting will be a bit of a working meeting as we discuss suggestions for both Recital section of the Ordinance and possible recycling survey questions.