

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE - December 13, 2023 Minutes

<u>Attending</u>	<u>Not in Attendance</u>
Wendy Cunningham	
Paul Denis	
Pat McDonough	
Paul Tabor	
Nicole Briand, Town Manager	

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from our 11/29/2023 were approved.

UPDATE FROM SW DIRECTOR

Bryan was not able to attend, however he provided two updates from Casella:

- They have yet to reply to our request for further information stemming from their RFP reply,
- The individual who is responsible for scheduling tours has left Casella so they have not confirmed a visit date for us, **Bryan will continue to pursue.**
- The trash compactor has arrived and there are some parts on order for it (per Nicole). We discussed putting a blurb about the new compactor on the Bowdoinham web site to communicate to citizens.

UPDATE FROM SELECT BOARD MEETING

There were two take-aways/to dos from the 12/12/2023 Select Board presentation:

1. Verify the estimated self-sustaining trash tag pricing of \$3.75/bag.

The \$3.75 was based on old estimate given to the Board of \$3.58 last time trash tag prices increased. $\$3.58 \times 4.7\%$ (Plummer/est. Casella increase) = \$3.75. Update from Nicole is current numbers indicate the \$3.58 may have been based on high assumptions and actuals came in lower. **Wendy will look at raw data and rerun numbers - Nicole provided numbers in the meeting).** Next step will be to review and present new numbers to Board.

2. Continue to refine program(s) to provide free/discounted trash tags to citizens who qualify.

We had discussed two different ways to approach; one through public assistance programs and one by leveraging the Bowdoinham Food Pantry.

Leveraging public assistance: While Bowdoinham does provide public assistance it is on the basis of specific needs, e.g. heating or other need. This means one family might apply for more than one type of assistance and individuals who qualify may not apply for any. Nicole provided data on census, income, etc. so we can evaluate how to quantify number of trash tags to provide through Town Office at no cost.

Leveraging Bowdoinham Food Pantry: The food pantry currently buys trash tags (funded by donations) to provide to their patrons. We have discussed applying a deep discount to the food pantry, allowing them to use donations for food. Wendy is working with the food pantry to work through an approach that would work, including putting a cap on the number of tickets available through this effort.

UPDATING THE SOLID WASTE ORDINANCE

Nicole was able to provide some good input for us as we move forward.

Timing: We need to include public input to this process. That can be in the form of a couple of public forums; the first being an input session(s) where the SWC provides an outline giving the public something to consider (target end of January, 2024), the second being public hearing with a draft of the ordinance (target end of February, 2024). Both need to be publicized (minimally 7 days in advance) and material made available prior to the meetings. *This timing is tight!*

Replace v. amend: The 1994 Ordinance was good for its time, but is a bit dated 30 years later. We are proposing completely replacing the Ordinance.

Include by reference: there are State, Federal and other Bowdoinham specific laws/ordinances that overlap with Solid Waste (e.g. Bowdoinham Land Use Ordinance). Where possible we will reference these (in a non-specific manner) in our Ordinance to provide direction to citizens reading the new SW Ordinance. We do not want to cover items that are covered elsewhere to avoid conflict, but don't want to imply there is not law covering specific issues (e.g. dumping on private land).

NEXT STEPS

We discussed using sub-committee to do some work. These would need to be restricted to 2 SWC members. If we want to include 3 or 4 members these need to be noted as work sessions, open to the public and communicated at least 7 days prior to the session.

For next meeting, **each SWC member must identify provisions in other towns' ordinances they like and provide that information prior to the meeting so we can be productive in our meeting.**

Wendy will draft an initial outline of what the ordinance may look like.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for December 27, 2023 at 6:00PM.