**Jonathan Appleyard, Woolwich Solid Waste Committee:**

(FYI: Population of Woolwich is 3,125, compared to Bowdoinham’s 2,889)

Woolwich closed its landfill almost 15 years ago.

Contract with EcoMaine for disposal and Riverside for trucking. (They had worked with Pine Tree in the past, but residents were not happy with the service: Cans and lids were just tossed aside after they were emptied; people would find them down the road. The relationship with Riverside is more cooperative.)

Solid waste is collected on Tuesday and Wednesday (they divided the town in half to accommodate Riverside’s schedule/capacity)

Recycling is collected every other Monday (they didn’t have enough to make weekly collection cost-effective.)

They do not have trash tags – it’s funded 100 percent through taxes. The incentive to recycle is the commitment to the environment and saving money on disposal, and hoping to make some of the money back

Getting started is hard – getting used to what to recycle; they’ve done well meeting the criteria for usable material. Training/education is an on-going process. (Woolwich Days)

At one time, they were recycling by taking material to a dumpster at the town office; that didn’t work. They needed a more systematic, professional approach; truck drivers leave the bins if the material is contaminated. It’s important to make it clear that Riverside is not the ones dropping the hammer – it’s the town.

Woolwich is saving money working with Riverside taking material to EcMaine vs. Pine Tree going to West Bath,

Downsides to working with EcoMaine: “Their commitment is to have a business model that makes financial sense *and* conservation, which means they’re pretty intense. Many people who care for the earth as much as they do don’t care for being told *how* to care for the earth by people in Portland.”

They talked about giving up curbside recycling, but the town loves having it.

His opinion about having a facility where people can drop off their recycling and swap usable items: “If there was a motivated group of people with a building, that’s a treasure. If you can keep that going, I’d say that’s worth a lot of money.”

This year’s budget for trash and recycling is $202,194; $128,050.92 of that is the contract with Riverside.