

Facebook Feedback

Bowdoinham's Trash Program

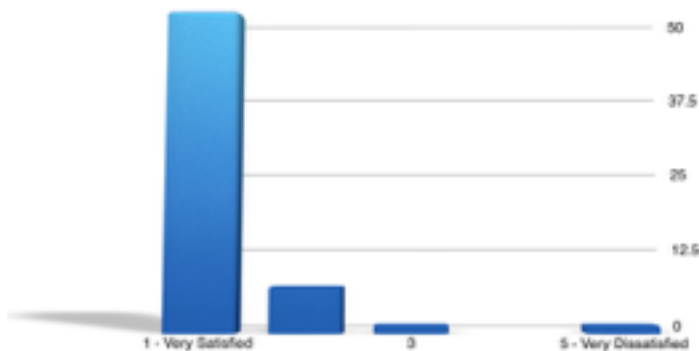
On September 28, 2023 the Solid Waste Committee asked the citizens of Bowdoinham to provide feedback on our current trash program. The feedback was open from September 28 through October 8, 2023. The questions were posted on both the Bowdoinham Friends & Family page and the Bowdoinham Forum page. If an individual answered the questions on both pages only one of their responses is reflected in the totals below. Not all respondents responded to all three questions.

Facebook was used based on time constraints, however the respondents may not represent a statistically valid sample of the population. For example elderly citizens may not be adequately represented. For that reason trends should be considered indicative, but not definitive. However, based on the margin-of-error where the trend is significant we can be more comfortable with the result.

Outlined below are the results for each question along with select comments generally representative of all comments.

QUESTION 1:

On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 - Very Satisfied and 5 = Very Dissatisfied; How satisfied are you with our current approach of having trash picked up roadside?



1 - Very Satisfied	50
2	7
3	1
4	0
5 - Very Dissatisfied	1

Question 1 comments:

- I believe some of the trash tag is payed by everyone's taxes. I would just like to not pay for everyone else's trash.
- We live on Beechnut Ridge. Pay taxes and are not afforded this service. (Note: curbside pick-up is provided for households on public roads, citizens who live on

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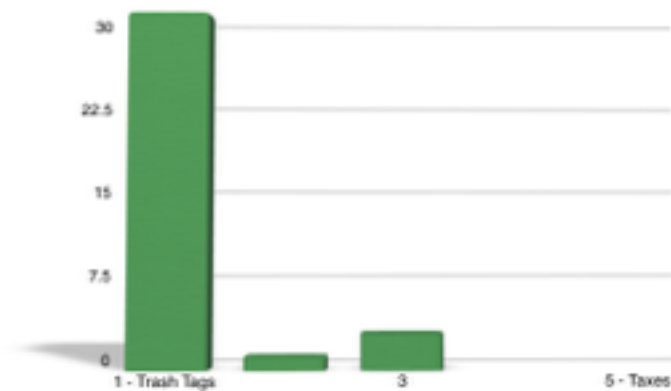
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private roads must bring their trash bags to the end of the private way to the public road).

- Bowdoin, bowdoinham, and Richmond should team up and have an actual dump. (Another citizen responded to this: "that was researched 4 years ago and found incompatible (sic)")
- Partial comment from a Bowdoinham Selectman. "We are only required by state statute to provide a place for Household waste to be taken. Currently that place is Pine Tree Waste in west bath. Any resident can bring their trash there directly for a fee but requires "no trash tag". **NOTE: FROM OCTOBER 4 EMAIL FROM CASELLA MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT MANAGER** (Casella is parent company of Pine Tree Waste) **"OUR WEST BATH FACILITY IS NOT A RESIDENTIAL DROP OFF FACILITY."**

QUESTION 2:

On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 = program should be paid 100% by Trash Tags and 5 = program should be totally supported by tax revenue please respond to the following: Do you believe the program should pay for itself entirely through trash tags or be subsidized by general taxes? Please note current self-sustaining price for trash tags if \approx \$3.60/bag. If trash take prices are reduced the difference would be made up through tax revenue.



1 - Trash Tags	30
2	1
3	3
4	0
5 - Taxes	0

Question 2 comments:

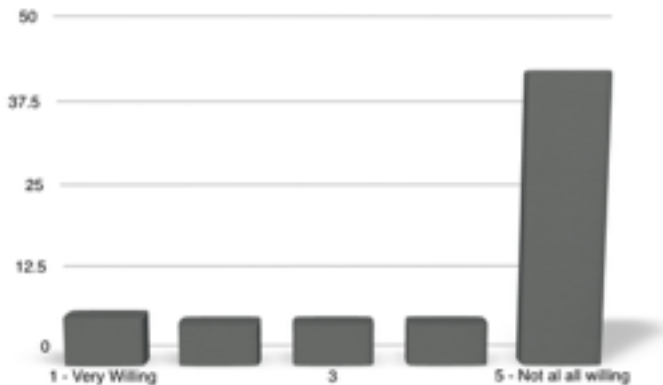
- Self sustaining on tags but also a taxpayer funded program to provide some tags to low income households. From my perspective I would rather pay a little extra in taxes than to have trash all over the roadside. So if the option is pay extra in taxes or watch a bunch of people justify duping their trash on our roads, I would rather pay the extra and have a nice town.
- Increase the cost of the tags so that it actually covers the new expense.

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- If tags are required, it should be 100% paid by the tags. If taxes are covering it, it should be free.
- I'm just afraid that if it's all paid for by taxes people will tend to throw more and more stuff in the trash, which could cause costs to go way up. On the other hand, when we can see how much we're paying for each bag as we fill it, we may pay more attention to recycling and re-using, which helps keep stuff out of the landfill and thus helps keep costs down.
- The program should be self sustaining and not use tax revenue. It is easy to calculate ... There should be an avenue to have it automatically inc/dec yearly based on the previous year.

QUESTION 3:

On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 =Very Willing and 5 = Not at all willing: would you be willing to bring your trash to a central location vs. pick-up if the trash tags were less expensive, for example if cost was reduced by \$1.00/tag?



1 - Very Willing	7
2	6
3	6
4	6
5 - Not at all willing	42

Question 3 comments:

- Nope, recycling piles up as it is since they stopped pick up.
- Could we bring other trash items? Things that don't fit? being able to have a place to bring all trash items is a very important issue.
- depending on how accessible (hours/days, etc.)
- Having someone haul our trash away for us feels like a luxury to me. I'm willing, but hate to lost that service and don't mind the current cost per bag.
- as parents of young kids it's very convenient with trash pickup

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- Making the time to get there to drop off (unless you can drop off 24/7) plus using the extra little bit of gas to get there and only paying \$1 less per bag isn't worth it at all to me.
- I don't want to load it in a vehicle, plus drive it someplace with time constraints.
- I do not have to deal with hauling my trash to another place
- (very willing) especially if it is in the general area of where I take my recyclables.
- I'd be willing only if it were free and could be brought at any time/any day with no restrictions on quantity.
- Absolutely not. It would never get taken out I don't have time to take it somewhere. Hence why I have a dumpster.
- I would depend on the drop-off hours. If I'm able to drop-off at different times of week it would be preferable to pickup.
- we are an old couple so only have a bag every other week so we would only save \$52/year. The convenience of curb-side is worth \$52/year. However, if it were near recycling, maybe
- Let me give a shout out to the current driver that picks up the trash. He's very efficient and takes care after removing the bags, he doesn't just toss the cans haphazardly. It's a long busy day for him
- the gentleman who has been our garbage collector for many years is so generous and efficient, I would hate to put him out of business.
- It sounds something like when we had a dump. We took our trash there every Saturday. It was convenient for me. But I did not work on Saturday. That said, there are neighbors who cannot drive and it depends on the days available.
- much prefer the current pick-up option, but would consider drop off if the hours to do so are convenient.
- Does the cost of dumpster really compare favorable with the cost of the tags? I wouldn't think so, unless you have a huge family and/or never recycle or compost anything.
- Folks in most other towns don't find it a hardship to take their trash somewhere. We need to get a handle on spending in their town. My personal opinion only.
- Why would someone want to put trash in their (sic) car and bother with the hassle for 1 dollar less. I'd pay 5 dollars more just to have the trash guy come get it, I have a dumpster at work and personally I'm getting one for home just so I don't have to transport trash. Mind you one at work is free.
- Very willing, enthusiastically if it involves a Saturday opportunity to do trash.
- (very willing) I lived in Topsham for 16 years and it's no big deal. It's the change that's a big deal
- Unless you have a pickup truck, that would involve putting smelly trash bags into your car, (recyclables, if you do them correctly, do not smell.) It also would be harder on people with disabilities, or older residents with mobility issues.

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- I am willing. But I worry about making it inconvenient for people - I worry a lot about the number of different companies hauling dumpsters all over town every week and the destruction of our roads and the wast of fuel that represents.
- Easier for older generation to put trash out by the road.
- Not at all wiling to tote trash anywhere