

Solid Waste Committee Update by Cathy Curtis
8/7/20

The town has formed a Solid Waste Committee with the following members: Susan Brown, Michael Smith, Pat McDonough, Tessa Kingsly, Susan Drucker-secretary, Lisa Wesel-vice-chair and Cathy Curtis-chair.

We have been tasked with: a. Overseeing protocols for keeping the Recycling Barn open during the pandemic. b. Containing expenses for the recycling program and problem-solving curbside pick-up contamination. c. Addressing the condition of the barn after the Selectboard has reviewed inspections and reports and discussed their findings with David Berry.

The Committee has been meeting every two weeks since June 30th. A schedule of meetings can be found on the Town Calendar with agendas. A Public Google folder with agendas, approved minutes and documents we are reviewing is linked on the Bowdoinham Town website under Town Government-Boards and Committees-Solid Waste Committee. The Committee has adopted the following mission statement:

“The goal of the Solid Waste Committee is to provide a resource for residents to reduce household solid waste, reuse and repurpose unwanted materials, and facilitate recycling as current markets allow. The Committee strives to seek revenue sources and cost savings for the town by staying current with market trends, and to encourage environmental stewardship through innovative and proactive practices.”

The Committee has toured the recycling barn and is in the process of gathering financial information for the past five years. We are working collaboratively with Bryan Benson, Director of Solid Waste & Recycling to understand the current state of affairs in order to make recommendations to the town. We welcome public participation at meetings. We are attempting to meet in person, outside, weather permitting or via ZOOM. Thank you to David Berry, Betsy Steen and Jeremy Cluchy for your public participation.

A special thank you to Bryan Benson who serves as our liaison with the town and helps set up meetings and gather information for the committee in addition to his other duties as Director of Solid Waste & Recycling.

One thing residents can do now to lower costs for the town:

- There is not a market for **glass** right now so that can be put in your **trash** instead of Mixed recyclables saving the town weight costs at Casellas.