

Recycling and Solid Waste Committee

Minutes of the February 21st, 2017 Meeting

Present: Meryl Mandell (Chair), Gary Bernhard (Recycling Coordinator) Ron Essig, Orson Jones, Susan Quigley, Steve Rice, Peg Ross

Absent: Karen Czerwonka, Nancy Dihlmann, Gail Fleishaker, Liz Lacy

Invited Guests: Susie Mosher, Becky Torres

1. No introductions.

2. Approval of minutes-October 11, 2016 meeting:

Minutes approved, all in favor.

3. Community Clean Up Day:

Susie Mosher reviewed numbers for previous Clean Up Day. April 29th proposed date for 2017. Fewer roads done the second (last time). Dumping especially bad on Sand Hill Rd. Committee Chair suggest taking bulky waste from Cleanup Day to Leverett, possibly for a price. Gary explained differentiating bulky items from bagged smaller items.

Gary describes Republic's concerns vis-a-vis community clean up day.

Gary & Meryl bring up the concern of residents offloading personal waste on collection day.

Gary's impression over two year span is that large items are diminishing and tapering off.

Gary will talk to Tim and organize a smaller roll-off for bagged trash. Bulky items will be stored at DPW. Committee thanks Suzie.

4. Leverett Transfer Station Stickers-Update:

Meryl sold twenty, Gary sold fifteen so far. The most recent town newsletter had been sent to residents. Committee members may attend pancake event to sell and advertise stickers on February 26th. Meryl suggests interim paper stickers to get us through June 30, 2017 to control costs, since "official" reprinting of small batch of stickers is as expensive as for a large number. Gary will print off samples and check with Leverett as necessary, but first request extra stickers from Leverett if there are extras. Meryl reports happiness among residents using program. Gary discusses the break even point of sticker sales for the period. Expenditures on renewing contract/program may be offset by decreased need for bulky waste day events. Gary will get in touch with Marjorie McGinnis, Leverett administrator.

Program will be continued into a full year for \$20 per sticker.

5. Covanta Contract Status – Gary:

Covanta's proposed contract is increasing significantly. Shutesbury went to bid under a regional RFP coordinated by Arlene Miller, retired from DEP, and received other offers. Covanta increased the price due to a perceived regional monopoly. Republic may offer a better deal with

the town consortium with Shutesbury. Becky will meet with the other towns to evaluate the bidders proposals.

6. Solid Waste Contract Status – Gary has been waiting for a proposal from Republic for quite some time despite Gary’s repeated requests. Rather than continue to wait, since it is getting towards the contract end of June 30, 2017, the Committee suggested we would go out to bid as soon as possible.

Construction of a new transfer station in Wilbraham may offer a future alternative that could affect prices for future contracts. This might make us consider a shorter contract length at this time. Logistical issues with garbage trucks on Laurel Road will complicate and increase costs of the Republic contract. Meryl will review electronic copy of the contract and send it to Gary.

Committee members will review it electronically. Any substantiated concerns will be addressed in a separate meeting if needed, or addressed by Becky and/or Town Counsel.

Committee members are disposed to let chair and administrator proceed on this matter. Motion to prepare a draft of the RFP for Becky Proposed. All in favor, motion passed.

7. Other:

The new order of bags will be in the original yellow color and have already been ordered by Becky.

Meeting adjourned, 8:02 PM