

Recycling and Solid Waste Committee Minutes July 6, 2009

Attending: Gary Bernhard, Meryl Mandell, Steve Rice, Gail Fleischaker, Paul Vlach, Nancy Dihlmann, Mino Caulton, and Ron Essig.

Absent: Sarah Martell, Karen Czerwonka.

Visiting: Becky Torres, new Town Administrator

The meeting was convened at 7:00 PM.

The minutes from the May 28, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Bulky Waste Day discussion

The committee talked about the placement of the roll-offs for bulky waste day. We decided to move the trash roll-offs back to increase circulation, to move the metals roll-off to the left of the salt shed facing the yard, and turn the electronics bin 90 degrees counter clockwise, to increase circulation and safety. The committee discussed changing the angle of the Things w/ Springs, but ultimately the choice was made to leave it where it is but with the opening pointing toward the garage. We need 3 or 4 people to form a line at the trash roll-off and 1 person designated as traffic/safety monitor inside the yard. Also, to increase efficiency volunteer parking should be across the street, or behind the salt shed, rather than in the main highway department yard.

The committee decided that it would be a good idea to get accurate figures for BWD charges — so that we can properly cover our costs and minimize expenses to residents. Gail will get breakdown of CFC charges from Interstate Refrigerant Recovery and separation of 'things with springs' and trash from Covanta.

2. Order of items on BWD check-in list

Meryl took on the responsibility to reorder the check-in list so the sequence makes more sense and is easier to navigate. The committee recognized the importance of finding the correct prices for BWD disposal: It was mentioned that people might simply dump items in the woods if they are too expensive at BWD.

3. Tires w/ rims

We collected six car tires on rims. Tom Clark has offered to take them, and the RWSC decided to offer him the \$24 we collected or a ten-pack of Shutesbury trash bags for his trouble. Gary is to confirm there are no others already in the RSWC roll-off, and then Paul will contact Tom at Clark's Auto Wrecking.

4. Police and cones at BWD ***

There was discussion about external traffic efficiency and the way in which the police handled the situation. It seems that they are partly responsible for the huge line, and they were unhappy to do much to increase efficiency. We felt there was room for two-way traffic, had the line of cones been moved over to create a tight queuing line for the event. All around, we questioned their usefulness on the day, and it was brought up that the Committee thought we had asked Sarah to contact them, to indicate we didn't need coverage — so there was some confusion here about *not* having police at Bulky. We were disappointed to find that we were charged \$100 for their presence, as well. The RSWC will meet with the police before the Fall BWD and lay out how we'd like placement of cones and lanes set for smooth entrance into BWD as well as for others passing by on Leverett Road.

5. Placement of signs

The committee decided that placement of signs throughout town worked well and that it was good to have them up a month before BWD.

6. New BWD sign frames

We need a couple of replacement frames; we could either weld what we have or simply buy new ones.

7. Skip check

It took two weeks and several contacts, but Paul eventually got the \$5 from a resident who failed to pay during BWD.

8. Non residential dumping at BWD

We decided that there was definitely one, likely two (at least) out of town dumpers. We realized that we inconsistently advertise it as Shutesbury *only*, and should put a sign up in front of the site, and maybe put an extension on the BWD signs, saying "Shutesbury Residents Only." If one of our volunteers sees someone they think, or know, is not from Shutesbury, an ID of some sort should be asked for (we don't want to crack down, but we should be able to, if need be).

9. Is Sarah working the grant? ***

We have the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grant money until the end of the summer: has Sarah made any progress with it?

10. What should people do when they have to dump something, but can't? ***

A resident at Bulky, about to sell their home, brought household chemicals that we could not take. Nothing was really decided on this, other than that Sarah should look into options for similar situations in the future, so she can advise them promptly of how to handle this problem. In addition, a door-less refrigerator has been at the roadside near the Lake Wyola dam for over a month. It is on private property, but clearly an eyesore, and there's a concern it would be dumped somewhere illegally, since the owner appears to think it would be taken as trash. The committee is requesting that Sarah contact them, to educate the owners, and address the other concerns.

11. Transition meeting

Gail and Becky gave an overview of the final meeting between Sarah and David Dann. They had sat in on that meeting, and Gail, Paul and Steve will try to arrange a meeting in the near future with Becky (and Sarah if she can make it) to go over some areas of ongoing confusion about system costs and revenue.

12. Duseau Trucks ***

The committee thought it was a good idea to check if Duseau's trucks go straight to Covanta, in order to have some assurance that we're being charged only for our own trash. Also, we have a pledge from Duseau that they would have a scale on site so we could know exactly what we're collecting for recyclables. Sarah said she didn't see anything like it on her trip there. We were undecided if we should pressure Duseau to uphold their pledge, and tell us our actual tonnage: further discussion sounds wise.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes by Mino Caulton.