

Shutesbury Recycling and Solid Waste Committee

Meeting Notes – February 12, 2020

Attendees: Meryl Mandell (Chair), Gary Bernhard (Recycling Coordinator), Ron Essig, Gail Fleischaker, Marla Killough, Liz Lacy, Sue Quigley, Steve Rice

Absent: Ezzell Floranina, Peg Ross

Guest: Natalia Jacobs

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm

1. Meryl welcomed everyone, and introductions were made.
2. Minutes from the June 25, 2019 meeting were approved. Minutes from the December 18, 2019 meeting were approved with the proposed changes offered by Meryl to the previous draft minutes.
3. Gary reported that the Select Board agreed to sign the contract with the CEP (Formerly Covanta) with an increase of \$5.00 per ton for the first year (tipping fee) and a 2% increase each year thereafter. Gary reported that they use scrubbers for mercury and carbon prior to incinerating to reduce the CO₂ waste going into the atmosphere. The recycling contract has been signed with the MRF. The town now is paying for recycling instead of getting money back. We want to continue to encourage recycling in town and increase knowledge about what and how to recycle. The cost to the town may be about \$17-18,000 a year for recycling now.
4. Recycling Shed- Meryl reported that the contract has not yet been submitted to Lamore's for the shed. We are waiting for the contract to be sent in and hope to have the shed by April 1st. Meryl will contact Becky Torres about this. Meryl noted that Becky has ordered the town trash bags.
5. Electronics recycling- Staples now takes many electronic devices. A list was circulated of what they will and won't take. Of note, they do not take TVs. Natalia and Gary reported on Eco Cell's program to recycle electronics to maximize the recycling of components and perhaps bring in a small return to the town. Using Eco Cell would require storage space as well as labor to collect, package and ship the gathered electronics. Gary reported that it cost \$628 to have electronics taken away at last year's Bulky Waste Day (BWD). It was asked what Staples does with the electronics returned to them. Gary will inquire. A concern was raised about wanting to try to use a method for disposing electronics that is environmentally sound and sustainable, not just easier and cheaper. We don't want people to throw electronics in the woods if we make them responsible for their own disposal. Gary reported that the Leverett Transfer Station will take TVs- \$10 for smaller screens and \$20 for larger screens. This is less than the \$40 charged to residents at BWD. And there is an additional per pound charge to the town as well at BWD.

Gold Circuit takes our electronics at BWD. Gary will ask if there's a minimum amount that Gold Circuit will take. Gold Circuit does take our Styrofoam for free. Gary said he'd write up some information about electronics disposal for the next town newsletter, Our Town. Gary noted that Lowe's takes tube lights- Home Depot does not.

6. Other- Natalia is a high school student at PVPA. She asked about the Shutesbury recycling program. Gary offered her refrigerator magnets and also reported that the school is doing a good job with recycling and composting. Mention was made of the recycling quiz used at Celebrate Shutesbury Day. Natalia was directed to the town web site for a wealth of information. Discussion was held about how to do more education with residents about recycling. A survey was suggested to find out how many residents recycle and how many compost. This could be handed out when trash bags are distributed. We discussed offering another composting workshop since the last one held a few years ago was well received. Meryl noted that 38% of our waste stream is recycled which is especially good for a town in which many practice composting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Marla Killough