

Recycling and Solid Waste Committee

August 15, 2016 meeting minutes

Members Present: Meryl Mandell (Chair), Gary Bernhard (Recycling Coordinator), Karen Czerwonka, Nancy Dihlmann, Ron Essig, Gail Fleischaker, Orson Jones, Susan Quigley, Steve Rice.

Absent: Liz Lacy, Peg Ross

Invited Guests: Becky Torres, Dan Higgins – Republic

1) Dan Higgins, Republic Services, introduced himself to committee members.

Town clerk swore in all members present, passed out the open meeting law handbook and reminded members to take state ethics test.

2) Committee Chair ensured all members had read April 13 minutes, minutes approved.

3) Dan Higgins from Republic Services reviewed and distributed the numbers on waste diversion rates and tonnage hauling quantities for 2016. The solid waste contract is due for renewal June 2017. Republic sends ½ million tons of trash to Covanta a year. Committee chair requests discussion of contract renewal and specifics. Chicopee landfill will close in 2018, disposal costs will likely increase. Dan noted that the cost of single stream recycling collection was \$30-50 more than dual stream. Discussion about the optimal contract length - all agreed a five year contract was most desirable. Dan will submit proposal and committee will convene as needed.

4) Bulky Waste Day Numbers: Containers were late in coming. Gail discussed numbers. Roll off containers fee waived due to their late arrival from Republic. Had the roll off fee not been waived, most likely the collection income would not have covered expenses. Metal and police expenses not yet recorded. 110 different households participated. Meryl and Gary discussed raising rates of misc. Trash. Meryl proposed raising rate to \$8. All members in favor, motion passed.

5) Community cleanup day April 30th – success

Gary brought up the issue of container misunderstanding (receiving couches and bulky items not suitable for container) Gary will talk to Republic about getting an additional container.

6) PAYT trash bag distribution:

Meryl proposed a 2-3 group team to distribute each time slot at town meeting distribution date. For the next month, two person coverage, then switch to one person coverage. There was an issue with volunteers missing some dates. Becky noted that an insufficient number of boxes

were brought to the Lake distribution date. She suggested bringing at least 14 boxes next year. Meryl suggested a pre-date reminder for the single staffing nights are needed. Gary agreed to notify single staffed distribution dates before their shift to ensure they know it's their time to distribute. All supported this approach.

7) Leverett Transfer Station-Bulky waste & take it or leave it access for Shutesbury residents: Gary, Meryl, Becky and Orson met with Ananda Larsen, Leverett Transfer Station coordinator and Marjorie McGinnis, Town Administrator of Leverett, to talk about possible access to the station for a price. Shutesbury is waiting on Leverett for formal word back. Meryl read newspaper coverage that the Board of Selectmen had approved sending Shutesbury a letter noting terms of trial access period. Leverett is drafting a letter. A survey will most likely be submitted in time for next year's bag distribution day.

Gary reminded the group about the upcoming HHW collection day in Amherst scheduled for September 25. He said the deadline for people to register to bring their hazardous waste is September 14.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM