

Town of Henniker
Solid Waste Disposal Committee
Twenty-Eighth Meeting: Thursday, October 15, 2009, 7:00 PM
At The Grange

Approved Minutes

Present: Donald Blanchard, Michael C. French, Amanda Gilman, Lia Houk, John V. Kjellman, and Linda Patterson

Absent: Bill Christiano, Donna MacMillan, Rod Pimentel

1. 1. **Chairman John Kjellman called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.**
2. 2. Chairman's introduction:
 - a. a. California Legislature passed new legislation, not yet signed into law, that imposes new and raises old container deposit fees. This is a big controversy because the container deposit fund has recently been raided to help fund the huge deficit in the general fund. The chairman raised the point that this is similar to arguments that are made against the PAYT option, that the revenue generated from PAYT might not be used to reduce the cost of trash disposal, but may be used for other purposes, and taxes might not actually decrease.
 - b. b. Lia Houk has resigned as chair of the Henniker Recycling Committee (HRC). The town secretary Nicole Gage sent out an email asking if the committee had a new chair or if any meetings were scheduled. John reported that he didn't believe either was the case and that the committee should perhaps take a hiatus until after the SWDC report had been completed. Then perhaps there would be cause to revive the committee with new leadership.
 - c. c. The Chairman recognized Lia Houk for all of her hard work with the committee over the last 12 years, and added that he thought Town leadership did not recognize all the little things Lia has accomplished over the years. Don Blanchard suggested a resolution be included in the minutes recognizing her efforts. John Kjellman noted that the Town should recognize her for her efforts, not this committee. The committee agreed. John will write a letter to the Selectman suggesting recognition for Lia.
3. 3. The minutes of the September 24, 2009 meeting were reviewed. **Don Blanchard made a motion to accept the minutes with one correction. The motion was seconded by Linda Patterson and passed unanimously, Michael French and Amanda Gilman abstaining.**
4. 4. Reports and updates from committee members:

- a. a. Business Survey Spreadsheet: Amanda has revised the spreadsheet and is waiting for some final information from Don Blanchard. She will have a final draft ready by the next meeting.
- b. b. Rationalized Recycling Rates Spreadsheet: Michael has completed a spreadsheet that attempts to compare the recycling rates of local towns given the total trash they are likely produce for their populations. He calculated an average of the trash Henniker creates by adding the weight of Henniker's total recyclables to the weight of total trash sent to the incinerator and then divided this by the estimated population for 2007. The result was 4.03 lbs of trash/ person/day (0.74tons of trash/ person/ year). John noted that this number is very close to the national average as well. Applying this calculation to other town's population figures shows very different recycling rates than were actually reported by other towns. This indicates that other towns might actually be reporting flawed numbers or that they are creating significantly less trash than Henniker and less than the national average. Linda noted that this is consistent with her findings from the town survey that she and Donna did, as some towns accept recycling from other towns while at the same time refusing trash from businesses within their town. Based on this calculation, Michael found that Henniker's Rationalized Rate was 16% and very close to what Henniker reports, whereas other towns Rationalized Rates are very different from their reported rates. John suggested that Mike send this spreadsheet to Don Maurer of NHDES.
- c. c. John Kjellman recently participated in the NRRRA Fall Tour to:
 - i. i. Northside Carting (C&D processing) in North Andover, MA: accepts C&D to make wood chips, which it sends to Maine for the making of tissue paper. It is essentially a single stream facility for C&D.
 - ii. ii. Office Paper Recovery Systems in Wilmington, MA: essentially a single stream facility for paper and cardboard. Most of their paper is sent to China where there is a strong market for America's relatively "virgin" recycled paper, which has longer fibers than the paper made in China. Chinese paper and cardboard has a much higher content of recycled material. The more times paper is recycled, the shorter the fibers become, leading to lower grade paper products.
 - iii. iii. Town of Wellesley, MA Recycling and Disposal Facility: Town of approximately 27,000 people. John noted that this was a very well marked facility having recently spent \$40,000 in signage that was approved by the town because the better signage saves in labor. The townspeople are still sorting all of their plastics even though they are then commingled by the employees. According to the manager this is because it takes about two years to educate people on changes. This is similar to what has

been reported by Bob Pennock in the past. The committee agreed that this learning curve could be shortened with an aggressive education and signage campaign.

5. 5. Review of the draft report to the Board of Selectmen Version 10: The committee reviewed and discussed this most recent draft, and John made note of the suggestions for corrections and improvements. Don noted that much of the history portion written by him and Michael had been significantly pared down for the purposes of the report. He asked if the full history section might be sent to the Henniker Historical Society. John Kjellman stated he felt that this was appropriate and the committee agreed.
6. 6. Executive Summary: Don Blanchard asked about some of the information to include in the Executive Summary. John pointed out that for a report this size it was reasonable to have a summary of 2 pages or so.
7. 7. Budget Request for 2010: The committee agreed to request a budget of \$1500 for 2010.
8. 8. Next Meeting scheduled for November 12, 2009 at 7pm at the Grange. John plans to have the next draft to the committee by one week before (11/5/09) for review before the next meeting.
9. 9. **Motion to adjourn was made by Amanda Gilman at 8:49 PM, seconded by Lia Houk and carried unanimously.**

Submitted 10/27/09

By Amanda Gilman

Reviewed 10/28/09

By John V. Kjellman

Approved 11/12/09