

Town of Henniker
Solid Waste Disposal Committee
Thirtieth Meeting: Thursday, December 3, 2009, 7:00 PM
At The Grange

Approved Minutes

Present: Donald Blanchard, Bill Christiano, John V. Kjellman, Linda Patterson,
and Rod Pimentel

Absent: Michael C. French, Amanda Gilman, Lia Houk, Donna MacMillan

- 1) 1) **Chairman John Kjellman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.**
- 2) 2) Chairman's introduction:
 - a. a. Handouts: Agenda, Draft minutes of November 12 meeting, News story in Concord Monitor (12/2) about Hopkinton's and Webster's threat to withdraw from the Concord COOP if the COOP spends any more money on the proposed single-stream recycling facility. Also, from Don Blanchard, draft of report executive summary.
 - b. b. In referring to the story about Hopkinton and Webster, John said there would seem to be question of whether or not building a new S/S recycling facility is the best use of the \$13 million the COOP has in the bank. Would a prudent banker loan the COOP that amount for the facility? Could COOP members better use the money themselves if the COOP declared a dividend of \$13 million?
- 3) 3) The minutes of the November 12, 2009 meeting were reviewed. **Don made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. His motion was seconded by Linda.**
- 4) 4) Reports and updates from members:
 - a. a. John reported on a meeting he had on 11/29 with Bob Pennock. The purpose of the meeting was to get Bob's comments about the draft of the Committee's report. But Bob relayed other interesting information. Bob told John that the COOP tipping fee jumps to \$62.10 per ton effective 12/1/09. John said that based on what he (John) had heard this past summer that he had been expecting a rate of around \$56. The new Guaranteed Annual Tonnage will be 3,100 tons. If we go over that amount, the tipping fee on the excess drops to about \$43.60 a ton, the actual incineration fee. If Henniker is short of that amount, it has to pay the COOP about \$18 per ton (the COOP's portion of the tipping fee) on the shortfall.
 - b. b. John also said the Bob said that as of the past 2-3 months B&A Waste has been bring about a bale's worth of cardboard to the T/S every Wednesday, as

well as other recyclable materials. That answers a question the Committee has had about what B&A Waste is doing with the recyclable material it picks up.

- c. c. Bob told John that Naughton is bringing an average of a couple of bale's worth of cardboard to the T/S on a weekly basis, also on Wednesday mornings. A bale of cardboard typically weighs about 1,000 pounds, or a little more.
 - d. d. John said that Bob spoke favorably about the report, and that he didn't have a lot of comments or suggestions for change. Bob told John that it was obvious that we have done a lot of work. Bob did indicate that he didn't think either single-stream recycling or Pay-As-You-Throw would work well for Henniker.
- 5) 5) Review and discuss Don's executive summary of the report.
- a. a. Don asked if the final version of the report will have a big effect on his executive summary. John said that based on our last meeting he was reorganizing the report, but that we had largely agreed on the substance of the report, so the changes won't have much of an effect on the executive summary.
 - b. b. Rod suggested that the comment about single-stream recycling needing a special sorting facility needs clarification, to make it clear that there would be no need for Henniker to sort single-stream recyclables.
 - c. c. Linda suggested that the charge from the BOS to the Committee listed at the top of the summary needs expansion. While it repeats the central task assigned to the committee by the BOS, it doesn't reflect the fact that the BOS asked to study and report on the economic issues affecting solid waste disposal in Henniker.
 - d. d. Rod suggested the reference to Option 5, eliminate all recycling, needs to be toned down a bit, and it should indicate that doing so would result in undetermined long-term costs. We don't want it to sound like it might be cost effective to eliminate all recycling. John said that it isn't true that 2/3 of the Town's MSW is not being recycled, as some of the MSW generated by customers of the commercial haulers is being recycled.
 - e. e. Rod suggested some grammatical changes for Option 6, Steady-As-You-Go. Don said he thought some what is now in Option 6 should be in conclusions.
 - f. f. Discussion evolved to a discussion of the fact that changes at T/S are limited by the current footprint, but that there are options to expanding the T/S, including removing the berm between the T/S and 114, or expanding into the gravel bank to the north.
 - g. g. It was suggested that separating conclusions and recommendations into two separate items would be a good idea, perhaps conclusions and suggestions.
- 6) 6) Linda started a new discussion about her thought that perhaps we need to offer some type of incentive to the customers of the commercial haulers (2/3 of our trash) to recycle. Rod said perhaps the incentive should be offered not to the businesses and residents, but to the haulers themselves. Rod and Don both said

- they each talked to a business when they were during our survey of businesses that indicated they stopped recycling when they found that (at one time) the company picking up their recyclables wasn't actually recycling it. We know that some businesses say they won't recycle if it will cost them money. John suggested that if we had single-stream recycling and allowed the commercial haulers to bring it to the T/S to dispose of it, that might provide them with an incentive to support recycling, as the Town would pay the transportation fee. Linda suggested we might focus just on paper and cardboard, because we generate much more by weight of these items than we do of plastics, and we don't collect a lot of glass.
- 7) 7) Linda raised the issue of composting as another area where the Town might facilitate more recycling, especially for the grocery stores and restaurants. Rod commented that everybody doesn't have to recycle everything, only those things they generate in volume
 - 8) 8) Linda said she was thinking we could facilitate partnerships, for example getting more people and businesses with compostable materials to take them (or have them taken) to Stonefalls Gardens. John said he thought the idea of partnerships and incentive programs was a good one, but that all we can really do in our report is suggest this is an idea that needs more thought and attention.
 - 9) 9) Bill pointed out that some people won't recycle no matter what the incentive, noting that college students tend to be particularly poor recyclers. He said one landlord told him that there was no way a recycling program for his mostly college student tenants would work.
 - 10) 10) Next meeting Thursday, 12/17/09 at 7:00 pm at the **Community Center**.
Note location change. John said he would have the final draft of the report done before the meeting.
 - 11) 11) **Motion to adjourn was made by Rod Pimentel at 8:27 PM. It was seconded by Don Blanchard and carried unanimously.**

Submitted 12/09/09
By John V. Kjellman
Approved as submitted:
1/7/2009