

Town of Henniker
Solid Waste Disposal Committee
Thirty-Sixth Meeting: Thursday, August 19, 2010, 7:00 PM
At The Grange

Approved Minutes

Present: Don Blanchard, Amanda Gilman, Lia Houk, John V. Kjellman, Linda Patterson, and Steven White.

Absent: Michael French and Rod Pimentel

Guests: Eleanor Glynn Kjellman

Chairman John Kjellman called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

- 1) Handouts: Agenda, "To The Dump" courtesy of Linda, Executive Summary by Don Blanchard, Power Point Presentation to BOS, Committee Contact List.
- 2) Chairman John Kjellman began with his introduction:
 - a. Bill Christiano and Donna MacMillan have resigned from the Committee. Bill had wanted to resign in late 2009, but John asked him to remain on the Committee until we got the report done. Donna is an unexpected resignation.
 - b. On the good side, Steven White, a new member of the inactive Henniker Recycling Committee, has also agreed to join the SWDC. Introductions were exchanged between Steven and current members of the SWDC.
 - c. Rod Pimentel is not expected tonight, Amanda Gilman is expected to be late.
 - d. There was a discussion about Bob Pennock's tenure as Superintendent of the Transfer Station. Anecdotal info has it that when he sells his house he will be leaving Henniker.
- 3) John initiated a discussion about what the BOS needs and wants from the committee, and that while he had asked committee members to keep their personal opinions private about what the Town should do while the report was being written, it is now OK to express personal opinions.
- 4) Lia said she believes what the BOS wants is not the opinion of the Committee, rather an assessment by the Committee of what the people of the Town want. She thinks it is mandatory that we present the report to the Town (in the public meeting) in a manner that makes the data clear and unambiguous, so people can form (and express) opinions.
- 5) John asked what the thoughts of committee members were in regards to a good option for Henniker:
 - a. Don said he hadn't thought through to a best solution, but he wasn't excited about PAYT. He likes curbside but thinks it may be too expensive. He thinks a goal should be to expand the footprint of the T/S by expanding into the gravel area. Scales should be a long-term objective.
 - b. Lia admitted to a bias toward PAYT, but now really likes it when combined with single-stream recycling. She supports a larger footprint to facilitate scales and operate more efficiently.
 - c. John asked which T/S would be good for the selectmen to visit if we decided to expand the T/S. It was concluded that it really depends on which option(s) is selected. Lia suggested a photo album of superior T/S.

- d. It was pointed out that Pete Fernandes should be drawn in to the conversation, as he has some definite ideas about possible changes at the T/S. Linda added that Pete told her that he has ideas about lowering labor costs. Lia said she knows that he has ideas for operational improvements.
- e. Steven suggested that if we are looking for a short-term fix, that PAYT is the best option. He likes single-stream as a long-term approach. He said that cost is an issue with single-stream, but John said there is a front-end cost, but long-term it could save money.
- f. Eleanor Kjellman was asked if she had any thoughts she would like to share. She said one of her questions is, what are the underlying goals of the committee, to reduce costs or increase recycling? She said the presentation to the Town needs to incorporate more graphics. Also any option presented to the Town should show how it can save the Town money, increase recycling, or both. Saving costs will resonate with townspeople.
- g. John said people seem to like the “single-stream” processing we have implemented for plastics. Lia said the combination of S/S and PAYT would be particularly effective, as people would know that everything they recycle is saving them money. Eleanor said she resents PAYT, as currently she pays for trash disposal with her taxes. Lia said the portion of her tax bill that is allocated for the T/S will be reduced with PAYT. Eleanor said that may be true, but the point has to be made clear to the townspeople.
- h. Eleanor asked if the Committee had looked at the cost of curbside pickup of both trash and recyclable materials. The answer is Yes, and after some discussion it was averred that the cost is about \$40/month for residential biweekly pickup. John said we’re largely do-it-yourselfers, but curbside pickup would provide the Town with a new service that would more than double the existing T/S budget. Whether or not it is something townspeople would pay for the new service is the big question. It was pointed out that curbside pickup is more difficult in winter, and that it would not totally eliminate the “dump.”
- i. John said his conclusion is that PAYT and single-stream combined is what is doable at this time, with PAYT now and single-stream in the near future. He said he would like PAYT to evolve to a weight-based system. An Easy-Pass type of system could be used to eliminate the need for cash with a weight-based system.
- j. Amanda suggested that we shouldn’t eliminate the “no change” option, as we know there are things that could be improved at the T/S that are not specifically tied to one of the five options for change.
- k. Lia asked if the money collected at the T/S for special items such as C&D matches the cost of disposal. John said there was not enough data to answer that question. That data might make the case for scales. John said other T/Ss say scales pay for themselves within 6 months to a couple of years.
- l. Amanda suggested that the meeting is getting off the track of planning for our public meeting. There was a consensus that we need to be able to explain the options, and to talk about the advantages of the various options, and to determine the opinions of the people who attend the meeting.
- m. Amanda said we don’t have time to collect more data before our meeting on the 28th. We need to take our options and create a general outline, we need to present each option in the same format. Lia said she agreed. She also said we need to tell townspeople something is going to happen so you better show up and make your voice heard.
- n. There was a discussion about doing a mailing. John said he would ask Peter Flynn if we have money to do a mailing. Postage for all postal patrons in Town is less than \$400, according to Amanda. Lia said we could take a shot at developing the wording before we

know exactly how much space we will have. Don's Executive Summary represents a good starting point, although it will need to be reduced.

- o. Lia and Amanda agreed to work together on the outline to be used for comparing the options. Lia said we need more time, but the consensus was that we should stick to the current schedule.
 - p. There was a discussion, which was not concluded, whether or not the options to eliminate all recycling and the "steady as you go" option should even be mentioned. There was an agreement that we should hand out the executive summary to all attendees at the meeting, and have copies of the report available for those who want them.
 - q. The question was asked about why the BOS created the Committee in the first place. It was concluded that Rod Pimentel (not present at the meeting) was frustrated not seeing any changes at the T/S, and proposed a new committee to the BOS to look at the issues.
- 6) **A motion to adjourn was made by Don Blanchard.** Linda asked about Pete Fernandes attending our next meeting, and it was agreed to defer his visit to our 9/23 meeting. **Don's motion was then seconded by Amanda Gilman and carried unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Submitted 8/29/10
By John V. Kjellman
Approved 9/09/10