

**Town of Henniker  
Solid Waste Disposal Committee**

**Twelfth Meeting: Thursday, January 22, 2009  
The Grange**

Approved Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Bill Christiano, Michael C. French, Amanda Gilman, Lia Houk, John V. Kjellman, Donna MacMillan, Linda Patterson, and Rod Pimentel

**Absent:** Donald Blanchard, out of town for several weeks.

Chairman John Kjellman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and began by stating that he had made a decision to do without the professional recording secretary, and that the committee secretary, Amanda Gilman, would be taking the minutes. He further observed that Amanda had not yet arrived, and that he would take notes pending her arrival, which was expected shortly.

- 1) The minutes for the January 8, 2009 meeting were reviewed and a few corrections noted. **Michael French a motion to approve the minutes as amended; it was seconded by Linda Paterson carried unanimously.**
- 2) John introduced Tony Giunta, CEO and president of American Energy Independence Company (Amenico), which he founded in 2006 for the purpose of processing used vegetable oils for use as an energy source. Before starting Amenico Mr. Giunta worked for 15 years for the NH Department of Environmental Services, the last four years of which were as the Director of Waste Management. He was also the mayor of Franklin for four years.
- 3) Mr. Giunta talked about the beginnings his company. The original thought had been to process biodiesel oil, but a better model turned out to be the processing of used vegetable oil for use as an energy source. It got started at the Red Blazer Restaurant in Concord, whose owner Sarandis Karathanasis was a believer in recycling, having already implemented a money-saving program by recycling beer and wine bottles. Amenico installed a waste oil boiler that uses the used vegetable oil from the kitchen to heat the hot water, saving about \$300 per month in natural gas costs. In addition to selling that concept to other restaurants, Amenico also became a provider of high quality, no trans-fats, vegetable oil, which it sells at a discount on the provision of getting the used oil back at no cost. This program has the advantage of getting restaurants to convert from using lard as a cooking oil, which is difficult to recycle, partly because it congeals easily.

Mr. Giunta stressed that high quality oil is important, and that it must be heated before it can be fed to a burner, and a special burner is required, but under the right conditions it burns just like heating oil. The BTU value of vegetable oil is about 130,000 BTU per gallon, for fuel oil it is only slightly more at 135,000 BTU/gal. At the Red Blazer 200-250 gallons per month is enough to heat the

entire building for month. It's enough to run a 100KW generator for 27 hours. The initial payback for the hot water heating system was about one and one-half years. An environmental benefit is that used oil that was once shipped to Europe for processing, then shipped back to the U.S. in chicken feed, pig feed, and even cosmetics, is now fully consumed on site.

Mr. Giunta stressed that vegetable oil has no sulfur and thus emits no sulfur oxides (acid rain) when burned. It emits about one-third less nitrous oxides, and virtually no particulates. It is considered carbon neutral as it is created by plant life, which absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Amenico is looking at using recycled vegetable oil to replace the use of #6 bunker oil used in some large power plants and other industrial applications. One issue is that a centrifuge is required to purify the heavy oil, and also that it is important to remove all the water. Water also needs to be removed from some vegetable oils, depending on how they have been used and stored.

Mr. Giunta said the limit on his business is not the supply of used vegetable oils, of which there is a huge amount, but on businesses willing to invest in the equipment needed to successfully use vegetable oil to replace other energy sources.

He also mentioned the possibility of growing camelina, an oil seed rotational plant that is both good for the soil and a productive source of vegetable oil, generating about 40 to 60 gallons per acre.

At the conclusion, John and committee members thanked Mr. Giunta for his presentation.

- 4) Committee Report for the Henniker Town Report: Chairman John Kjellman submitted a draft of the committee report to be included in the Henniker Town Report for review and discussion by the committee. Discussion on the level of detail to be included as well as how to best present the information in an unbiased manner ended with group consensus on changes the chairman should make to the draft. Additional review by members planned to occur via email on Friday 1/23/09 so that the report could be submitted to the town the same day.
- 5) Report from Chairman John Kjellman on Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) Marketing Meeting: Michael Durfor will be taking over as the new executive director of the NRRA. He suggests that recently there has been some improvement in the recycling market, and noted that a lot of tin cans had been sold recently at an improved price.
- 6) HB283-FN: Amanda Gilman reported on a proposed NH House Bill about instituting a bottle fee to manufacturers. Rep Leigh Webb has asked for input from municipalities as thus far all input to the subcommittee on solid waste committee has been from bottlers, the soft drink association, beer manufacturers, and retail associations against the bill. The committee decided that it was outside their scope

to take an official stance on the bill but that individuals were free to contact Rep. Webb or to email their input to Amanda Gilman as she plans to follow up as a private citizen.

- 7) UNH Community Profile: The chairman announced to the committee the upcoming Community Profile Meeting April 17<sup>th</sup> 6-9:30 pm and April 18<sup>th</sup> 8-2pm. Amanda Gilman and Leah Houk are both members of the steering committee and requested the support and attendance of the Solid Waste Disposal Committee at the upcoming event.
- 8) Recording of minutes: The group agreed that for this and future meetings Amanda Gilman would resume her secretarial position and record the minutes.
- 9) Development of Report to the Selectman: Committee members continue to develop drafts of their individual reports and send them to the Chairman.
- 10) **A motion to adjourn was submitted by Linda Patterson, seconded by Rod Pimentel and carried with full support at 2055.**

Draft Meeting Minutes

Respectfully Submitted

By Amanda Gilman, Recording Secretary

Reviewed: John V. Kjellman, Chairman

January 29, 2009

Approved: February 5, 2009