

Town of Henniker
Solid Waste Disposal Committee
Nineteenth Meeting: Thursday, May 21, 2009, 7:00 PM
At The Grange

Approved Minutes

Present: Don Blanchard, Bill Christiano, Michael C. French, Lia Houk, John V. Kjellman, Donna MacMillan, and Linda Patterson.

Absent: Amanda Gilman

- 1) Chairman John Kjellman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Chairman's introduction:
 - a. Handouts: Agenda, draft minutes of May 7 meeting, preliminary draft of report to Town.
 - b. PAYT lost big time in Bow (235-131, 1.8 to one, almost two to one). Generally when PAYT has been defeated it has been close.
 - c. Corcoran has been evicted from the building it was leasing in Manchester, for non-payment of rent, and it appears that its plan to build a single-stream facility in Manchester is dead.
 - d. The COOP seems to be proceeding along with its plans for a new single-stream (S/S) facility, but it does not appear certain at this point. John talked with Liz Bedard of the COOP and told her he didn't expect the Town to take up the issue until later this year, and that any proposals for major changes such as S/S processing would likely go to the voters next March. Liz seemed OK with that scenario, and did not indicate the COOP expected a decision sooner.
 - e. John had a conversation with BOS chairman Tom Watman about "the intentions" of the committee in regards to making specific recommendations. John pointed out we were told not to make specific recommendations, but to present feasible options. Tom said that is correct, but there is a new Board and if we wished to come back to the Board to request a change to our charter, we could do so. I said we were happy presenting options, and planned to do so in a couple of months, but that there might be some ongoing dialog between the Committee and the BOS after that. The strong consensus of the Committee was that it should continue under the original plan. Tom also pointed out to John that he reads the Committee's minutes. The thought that someone is reading the minutes pleased the Committee.
- 2) The minutes of the meeting of May 7, 2009 were reviewed. **Michael French made a motion to accept them as written. Donna MacMillan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**
- 3) Lia Houk gave a report of her (and John Kjellman's) recent tour of the Casella single-stream recycling processing facility in Auburn, Massachusetts. The tour

was sponsored by the Concord COOP, which plans to build a similar facility in Penacook, next to the Wheelabrator incinerator.

Lia pointed out that unlike the NRRA tour to this facility last Fall, this time people got to go inside the plant, which was in operation. She noted it was very dusty inside, and that although most of the workers were wearing face masks, they were the inexpensive hardware store variety, and did not appear to be wholly adequate. Jim Presher indicated the COOP planned to enclose the sorting stations in its planned facility, and that they would be heated and air conditioned, and supplied with filtered air.

The Casella facility processes about 5,000 tons of recycled material a month, and has contracts to pick up the material and deliver it to the facility. Lia pointed out that this service is an important part of Casella's revenue stream, so it was not entirely dependent on income from the sale of recycled materials. John pointed out that the COOP is not at this time planning to offer that service, so the economics of the two facilities are not directly comparable.

Lia said she was surprised at how contaminated the output is, she saw plastics baled with cardboard, for instance. The Casella people acknowledged some contamination, but said it was within limits agreed to by the purchaser, and that Casella can adapt the process to meet customer requirements. Casella has multiple buyers for most of its commodities.

The facility processes all plastics (#1-#7), as well as rigid plastics such as toys and laundry baskets.

- 4) Bill Christiano gave an update on his quest to learn more about Bow Recycling. He said none of his calls were being returned, and that when he talked to the receptionist she was elusive and replied to a request to speak with the owners saying that they were "never in." The Committee's interest is that it wonders what happens to the recyclable materials that are being collected at HCS and reportedly taken to Bow Recycling for processing. Bill said he will continue to pursue the matter.
- 5) Reports from committee members on status of survey of Henniker businesses, and any problems or questions that have been encountered.
 - a. John Kjellman reported that Amanda has provided him with the data from the surveys that she has completed, and commented that some businesses are spending a lot of money on "trash" disposal.
 - b. Michael French reviewed the results of his survey of four businesses and institutions. All are doing some recycling. Some businesses take their own waste to the T/S. One office sends its paper to a shredding company, and it was thought that shredding companies recycle the shredded output. One industrial company spends \$450/month for two dumpsters, and cardboard is separated out. This business takes the cardboard and plastic bottles to the T/S. A restaurant that uses Naughton said that Naughton takes both its cardboard and glass for recycling.

Michael was told by one business that the cost of implementing additional recycling, perhaps single-stream, would not be worth the additional cost in labor. He said one person told him that the Town should make a recycling container available in the downtown area for single-stream recycling, and should not charge for the use of it, perhaps for a one-year evaluation. One business person said that many employees bring their trash from home and deposit in the business's dumpster. Other Committee members echoed that they heard that that was not uncommon.

One restaurant is collecting vegetable oil for recycling, and also providing food scraps for pig farmers.

- c. Donna pointed that another food service business said Naughton was taking its cardboard for recycling. John said he was under the impression that Naughton claimed to be doing no recycling, but Lia said she thought the one exception was cardboard. It's believed the cardboard is taken to the T/S.
- d. Don Blanchard said that one lumber mill is spending \$175/month on trash removal. It collects metal and takes it to Cowens in Concord for disposal. One restaurant does recycling and takes its waste to the T/S itself, and would do more recycling if there were economic benefits. Don said some people thought curbside pickup would be great, if it didn't cost anything extra. An auto repair business takes its own waste to the T/S, and recycles cardboard. The owner said he would get a dumpster (from Naughton, presumably) if the Town switched to PAYT.

The owner of the auto repair business complained that the T/S won't accept tires that are mounted on rims, that many people dumped tires on rims at his facility, which forced him not only to unmount them, but pay to dispose of the tires at the T/S. Lia said that was interesting, because the automotive business she surveyed reported it was able to get rid of tires that are still mounted at no cost, because its metal collections person takes them for free, for the value of the rims as metal scrap. Rod pointed out that aluminum rims would be particularly valuable.

Don reported that one business owner was concerned that the Parks and Rec and T/S budgets weren't kept separate, that because the same people perform both functions that the costs were intermingled. It is the belief of the Committee that this is not the case, that there is a good system for in place for allocating costs to the proper departments. Lia reported she's heard others express the same concern.

- e. Lia Houk reported she had surveyed a number of businesses. Many small businesses are acting just like a home, they separate some or all recyclable materials and bring them and the solid waste (trash) to the T/S. Some said single-stream would be convenient. One person said she thinks Henniker should have mandatory recycling. A computer company sends old computer parts to Salem and gets some revenue from that, and also refurbishes parts for

resale. An automotive company collects metal for recycling. Businesses are paying \$100 plus per month for dumpsters. A restaurant reported that B&A Waste was picking up cardboard and glass for recycling. It was noted that the belief has been that B&A isn't doing any recycling, but it appears that it is doing limited recycling for some of its customers.

- f. Linda Patterson reported on the businesses she surveyed. A campground recycles aluminum cans but treats everything else as solid waste. It takes three loads (pickup truck) of trash to the T/S a week. She reported that a construction company was unhappy because it cannot dump C&D directly into the C&D hopper, so it hauls it to Concord where it costs \$125/ton to dump it. He says he has two 9-yard dump trailers which he uses, and that Concord is very helpful. He has been told he can't use Henniker's T/S because it fills up the trailers too fast. He would rather be paying Henniker than Concord. He further feels that if the T/S had a set of scales for C&D, it would be more equitable.

There was a discussion about the extent to which the T/S staff watches to see what is tossed and dumped into the hopper, and even if someone is around to take action in case somebody fell in when the compactor was active. The consensus was that the situation is not optimal.

- g. Donna MacMillan reported on the businesses she surveyed. One of the restaurants she surveyed creates about 30 bags of trash a month, which Naughton picks up. It does take paper to the T/S for recycling, and does something with its cooking oil, but it wasn't clear where it goes. Another food service business has about 16 employees and generates about 20 yards of trash a month which is picked up by Naughton. Naughton also takes the cardboard. The owner didn't want to talk about single-stream processing. Another smaller food service business recycles everything, and takes its own trash and R/C to the T/S.
- h. Bill Christiano reported on the businesses he surveyed. One business was too busy to talk (come back in June). Another recycles a lot of cardboard and some other materials, and takes two pickup truck loads to the T/S a week. The owner said curbside pickup is not of interest, as it would raise taxes. He likes things the way things are. A restaurant is just now planning to recycle cardboard, but doesn't recycle glass at this time. Naughton is picking up the trash and will pickup the cardboard. The business is recycling cooking oil, and using biodegradable food take-out containers.

There was a discussion about the fact that restaurants are buying vegetable oil for cooking that can be recycled, and that Amenico makes a deal with them to sell the vegetable oil at a good price and then pickups up the used oil which it processes for use in waste oil furnaces for heat or hot water.

One restaurant and building owner reported he used to recycle, but then found the company taking his trash and recyclable materials was dumping it

all together so he no longer recycles. Naughton is taking the trash currently. Cardboard is not recycled, either, although John reported that he believed the cardboard was being recycled in the past. Again the issue of the cost of recycling was raised. This restaurant buys about 1,500 gallons of vegetable oil a year, which results in about 1,000 gallons which can be burned in a special furnace. A solar panel is being used to heat hot water.

A building owner who rents to college students thought it would be hard to get the students to recycle, and in general is concerned about the cost of doing more recycling, but is interested in do so.

Bill reported that NEC has 19 dumpsters and 34 buildings, and pays about \$3,800/month to Naughton to get rid of its trash. The college does recycle, paper is shredded, and college staff takes the recycled material to the T/S twice a week, except steel is taken to Cowens in Concord.

There was a discussion of the disposal of things of value that students leave behind, and how dumpster diving became a problem so people are no longer allowed to go through the trash. Bill mentioned that one colleges runs equivalent of a swap shop to allow for the disposal of such items.

Bill also reported the college has a problem of people who are not part of NEC using NEC's dumpsters to dispose of their trash.

- 6) John suggested that Rod might take the list of businesses that was mailed to each committee member, with list of those which had been assigned to committee members to survey, and take a few which have not been assigned and conduct a few surveys himself.

There followed a discussion of what to do the detailed survey results, and John indicated that he thought the best approach will be to develop a form or spreadsheet with columns for the items we think should be compiled for use in our report, and that each member could extract the data from their survey forms and add it to the spreadsheet. He said he would work on drafting up such a form or spreadsheet.

- 7) John reported on his efforts to structure the report that the Committee will make to the Selectmen, and says he's made several attempts at the task, and has settled into a structure and approach that he thinks might be effective. That task is to present the data concisely enough to get people's attention, but to include enough data to be informative, and that the subject is so complicated that we can't just list a series of options and expect the Selectmen to make a choice from the list. John asked Committee members to read the introduction, beginning sections of the report, and the appendix about the Committee itself, and to bring in comments at the next meeting, or to e-mail them to John before the meeting.

Linda asked if there would be value in including the number of hours committee members had expended working on the Committee. John said he hadn't thought of that, but that it was a good idea, He said he had already included a place in an appendix for the number of meetings the Committee has held, and also for the

number of trips that Committee members have made attending non-committee meetings and visiting solid waste and recycling facilities and other transfer stations.

- 8) There were no other topics raised for discussion. Lia and Bill reported they would not be able to attend the next meeting, and Donna reported she would not be able to attend the 6/18 meeting.
- 9) **Donna MacMillan made a motion to adjourn at 8:48 PM. Linda Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted:

05/26/2009

John V. Kjellman

Corrected and Approved:

06/04/2009