

Town of Henniker
Solid Waste Disposal Committee
Eighteenth Meeting: Thursday, June 4, 2009, 7:00 PM
At The Grange

Draft Minutes

Present: Michael French, Amanda Gilman, John V. Kjellman, Donna MacMillan, Linda Patterson, and Rod Pimentel

Absent: Don Blanchard, Bill Christiano, Lia Houk,

- 1) Chairman John Kjellman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- 2) **Donna MacMillan made a motion to accept the minutes from 5/21/09 as corrected, seconded by Rod Pimentel and carried unanimously with Amanda Gilman abstaining.**
- 3) Report from committee members on the status of surveys of Henniker businesses.
 - a. Amanda Gilman reviewed her data from 4 Henniker businesses. One consisted of a single employee at a home business who does no recycling except scrap metal. The business creates so little trash the owner sees no added benefit for including a recycling program or curbside pickup.

Another local business does no recycling despite the fact that they have a considerable amount of shredded paper and drinking containers. The barriers seemed to be the notion that the shredded paper was still sensitive and should not be recycled, their lack of additional space for sorting and collecting recyclables and lack of interest in recycling. They are spending approx. \$180 a month for weekly pick up from their trash closet in the building as they don't have a dumpster.

Another local business with 10 employees made the switch to recycling and hauling their own waste to the Transfer Station approximately 2 years ago. This business recycles just about everything the Transfer Station offers recycling services for with the exception of metal and oil. They now produce only 5 bags of trash per week. They haul all of the above to the Transfer Station themselves.

A local business that includes retail stores and residential apartments does no recycling despite a voiced interest by some of the residents, but the private hauler does not offer recycling services. The current disposal cost is \$105 per month for weekly pick up of one dumpster that is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ full. They are definitely interested in recycling if the hauler would offer it.

- b. Mike French reported on the local businesses he recently surveyed. A campground has no formal recycling program but some of the residents do take their own recycling to the Transfer Station. They are currently paying for 3 dumpsters at \$65 each and the hauler decides when they are full enough to be emptied. In the busy summer season it costs approximately \$350-450 per month. They have considered starting a recycling program and hauling it themselves but hasn't developed a system for collection of separated materials and easy hauling to the Transfer Station. Their idea of single stream recycling would certainly circumvent this barrier and if the private hauler picked up the single stream recycling it would make it even easier. Apparently the NH Campground Owners Association suggests that having a recycling program at a campground is a big selling point for campers.

A local business consisting of 30 apartments in 4 buildings is spending approximately \$230 per month in disposal costs. They are currently trying to encourage residents to haul their own recyclables to the Transfer Station. The barriers they have to recycling are storage of recyclables in the apartments, especially in some of the smaller ones and the space that might be needed to store recyclables outdoors. They anticipate a possible additional cost of \$300-400 per month if a program of mandatory recycling, pay per bag or curbside pickup were instituted as they might have to hire an additional person to move trash and or recycling to dumpsters or to the street for pickup. The committee discussed this and came to the conclusion that this cost would not occur because in having a private hauler is in effect already a form of curbside pickup and adding single stream recycling would likely only increase their present system by 1 dumpster at each building. Their business owner did not that at the other properties they own in ME, they have no problem with weekly renters taking their own trash to the curbside. This program also includes different days where the town picks up special waste such as yard and furniture. Linda Patterson noted that this was similar to Goffstown program.

- c. Linda Patterson reported on 2 local businesses she interviewed. One retail business owner emphasized that whatever program the town adopts, it needs to be simple. They do recycle water bottles as they provide these for the employees and they haul these to the Transfer Station themselves. They haul their own trash as well. They do recycle cardboard if a large shipment comes in on a day when a trip to the Transfer Station is planned, but otherwise they have no way to keep it dry. Discussion ensued by the committee on the necessity of keeping cardboard dry. There appear to be some inconsistencies in this requirement as some places keep their cardboard dry and some don't. It was decided that NRRA would be the best resource for this answer. The business owner doesn't see any benefit to single stream recycling or curbside pickup.

Another local retail business Linda interviewed has made efforts to make his business green. They generate considerable cardboard, which is stored in the building until the hauler picks it up for recycling. They are paying \$166 a month for waste and cardboard recycling services by B&A.

Discussion ensued as to where B&A takes their cardboard recycling to. It was the committees understanding that B&A did not take their cardboard to the Transfer Station as Naughton does. The business owner noted that there is also a pellet plant in Henniker and that it made the most sense to just transport the cardboard to this plant for creation of pellets rather than transporting it somewhere further away for recycling. The business owner was interested in single stream recycling as having just 2 containers seemed to make sense to him provided the cost was beneficial.

- d. Donna MacMillan reported added to her information from a local food service business that she reported on last meeting. The business owner noted that he only had space for one dumpster and not enough space to add an additional dumpster for recycling. The committee noted that perhaps it might be beneficial to remember this should the town move to a program of recycling. Space for 2 dumpsters could be included in the requirements for permits for new businesses.
 - e. Rod Pimentel made a note about the effects of eliminating all paper from solid waste disposal. Wheelabrator fluffs the trash to allow air to get to the paper that is the main fuel source of the solid waste it burns. The committee agreed that some fiber and paper is needed for the incinerators. This is the reason that occasionally furniture and tires are accepted at the Wheelabrator incinerator.
- 4) Review of preliminary draft report to the Town. John Kjellman spoke to the draft report he has created thus far. He noted that the report must include data on the cost and effects of eliminating recycling totally. The committee agreed. John asked for input from the committee on the draft.
- a. Linda Patterson noted that scales were not specifically mentioned. The committee agreed that this would come under the Unit Pricing for Trash Disposal Section.
 - b. Discussion ensued on the fact that businesses already pay more taxes than residents and some of the programs being considered could cost the businesses more. The issues of fairness and equity were debated, as they seem to be recurring themes. This issue will be addressed in the economic section.
 - c. The committee thanked John Kjellman for his hard work in creating the draft thus far
 - d. The chairman asked for additional comments on the draft by the next meeting.
- 5) Report timeframe and presentation format:
- a. The committee agreed to plan to have something prepared for presentation to the selectman by August 13, 2009.

- b. The format of the presentation is yet to be determined. John Kjellman will inquire with the selectman as to their preference.
- 6) Business Surveys:
- a. The committee agreed that some of the collected data is important supporting information and might lend itself to inclusion in a spreadsheet. Amanda will try to create something in Excel by the next meeting.
 - b. John Kjellman's list of businesses to call was divided up between the committee members present.
 - i. Rod Pimentel to contact Birchwood
 - ii. Linda Patterson to contact Citizens Bank
 - iii. Mike French to contact Central Concrete
 - iv. Amanda Gilman to contact HG Caldwell
- 7) **Motion to adjourn made by Donna MacMillan at 8:32 pm, seconded by Amanda Gilman and carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted:

6/8/09

Amanda Gilman