

**Town of Henniker
Solid Waste Disposal Committee
Thursday - September 25, 2008
Grange Hall**

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman John Kjellman, Bill Christiano, Michael French, Lia Houk, Ron Lavallee, Stephany Lavallee, Donna MacMillan, Linda Patterson

Members Excused due to Schedule Conflicts: Amanda Gilman, Rod Pimentel

Others Present: Sheila Mitchell, Recording Secretary

Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

- **Introduction by the Chairman**

The Chairman explained that Amanda Gilman had submitted a project report but would not be attending this meeting, and that Ron Pimentel would be absent as well. He distributed copies of Amanda's report.

The committee is expecting to be joined soon by a new member appointed by the Selectmen: Don Blanchard is a licensed engineer and designer and a former member of the faculty of New England College, who taught courses in solid waste management. He is preparing a preliminary report on the closure of the Henniker landfill. An updated committee contact list, including Don Blanchard, was distributed.

The Chairman also mentioned recording of previous meetings. He said that the State statutes allow anyone to use a recording device at a public meeting without having to announce its use. Ron Lavallee noted that, at meetings where privacy is expected, notice of recording should be announced.

Chairman Kjellman said he noticed an article in the *Concord Monitor* of September 19th about a Massachusetts firm that is litigating against New Hampshire's restrictions on construction and debris burning.

- **Review and Approval of Previous Minutes**

Having taken the minutes for the previous committee meeting on September 11, 2008, John Kjellman took notes of corrections suggested by members.

Michael French made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, the motion was seconded by Ron Lavallee, and it carried with all in favor.

- **Objectives of the Next Regular Meeting on October 9**

This meeting will take place the day after the bus tour. Jim Presher of the Concord Co-op is scheduled to attend and speak about single stream. For information, the Chairman provided a copy of an advertisement in the newspaper by Bestway that highlighted its single-stream mixed recycling services. Later in the meeting, both Mike and Ron pointed out that, while income is reduced by not sorting recyclable materials, the single-stream method saves money on staff hours and overhead.

- **Future Meetings and Events**

October 8, 2008 – NRRA Fall Bus Tour

The Charlestown single stream facility the committee had planned to visit is currently not available, so the tour will visit a single stream facility in Auburn, Massachusetts. There will be four participants: Lia Houk, John Kjellman, Ron Lavalley and Donna MacMillan. Mr. Kjellman will request hard hats and vests for himself, Ron and Donna; Lia has her own.

- **Development of Report to the Selectmen**

The Selectmen have charged this committee with at least five tasks. To begin, committee members have been working to gain expertise in focused areas of the disposal of solid waste. The Selectmen desire hard data and possible strategic methods of disposal that include time projections.

Options the committee is considering include:

1. Incineration
New technology can “scrub” emissions generated by burning trash.
2. Landfill (opening a new one)
Not feasible or attractive?
3. Curbside Pick-up
To be discussed later.
4. Recycling
 - a. single stream or sorted
 - b. unit pricing
 - c. regulations
 - d. education outreach

The committee discussed the option of recycling. It was agreed that decisions and future projections should be based on facts, and that a baseline for recycling costs and revenues to date should be compiled. Sources of information include the Town of Henniker, the transfer station, Wheelabrator and NRRA.

The Lavalles had compiled some statistics from 2007, and Stephany had made a comprehensive, easy-to-understand chart, which they displayed for committee members. Consensus was that this chart would serve well as a baseline. Stephany promised to enter the contents of the chart into a computer document and e-mail it to the committee.

2007 COSTS

Salaries	\$175,282
Benefits	\$110,595
FICA	\$6,140
Overtime (363 Hours)	\$11,778
Utilities:	
Electricity	\$6,128
Alarms	\$1,930
Telephone	\$2,976
Equipment:	
Maintenance	\$7,000
Fuel	\$3,500
Mileage	\$1,300
Repairs	\$1,300
Supplies	\$1,570
Wheelabrator (3063.64 Tons)	\$ 131,905
Triple L	\$19,820
NRRA:	
Supplies	\$1,255.59
Glass	\$1,255.51
Hauler	\$5,721.24
Maintenance	\$9,000.00
Construction/Demolition:	
311.81 Tons	\$33,254
Transportation	\$5335

2007 REVENUES

NRRA: 501.75 Total Tons

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Revenues</u>
Scrap Metal	114.07	\$12,550.00
Fiber OCC (corrugated)	125.58	\$12,198.00
Fiber Newsprint	43.00	\$3,638.00
Fiber Mixed	93.80	\$956.86
Plastic:		
HDPE	7.02	\$2,646.15
PETE	12.49	\$2,964.74
Private Haulers		\$74,349.55
Permits		\$563.00
Grants		\$2,449.00
Warner		\$512.00
Hazardous Waste Day		\$8,900.00

The Lavalles reported that compiling data for the chart was a challenge, to say the least. They definitely had to go to more than one source for information. Annual Town Reports might be a single source in the future, but over the last few years, the reports have not displayed facts on waste disposal in a manner consistent enough for comparison and analysis.

Incidentally, it was mentioned that tipping fees for Henniker are currently \$42.50 per ton of solid waste, and they are expected to increase to between \$55 and \$60 per ton in 2009.

Linda Patterson asked, why aren't more individuals and companies recycling? Some of the responses were: the convenience of pick-up costs money, they say they don't have staff time available to manage a recycling program, and businesses do not understand the financial benefits of recycling.

Stephany suggested that metal found all around town might be recycled as construction debris and it could serve as a revenue source. She also suggested outreach and education on recycling begin with the students in town, in the elementary schools especially. She stated that their household recycles just about everything, and that they got started through their children's projects.

Recycling at the Henniker transfer station needs more analysis, John Kjellman believes, to ascertain efficiency, accurate accounting, inventory control and personnel costs. Both he and Lia Houk believe the schedule of open hours needs to be re-examined. Bill Christiano asked if people are working there while the station is closed to the public. The answer given was that they are, and that the same staff divides their time between parks & recreation duties and solid waste disposal duties.

Other possibilities raised included possibly expanding and making improvements to the existing transfer station if the Town does not opt for single-stream services; possibly mining the existing landfill for recycling materials, as a few towns reportedly have done; and more precisely assessing what goes into the uncategorized 60% of solid waste disposal by local haulers that goes directly to Wheelabrator. Ron Lavalley asked how much longer Wheelabrator will be an option, and the answer given was its current contract is until 2014.

Donna asked when the Solid Waste Disposal Committee might be ready to present its report to the Selectman. The Chairman estimates at about a year's time after formation, sometime in the summer of 2009.

- **Committee Member Reports**

The Chairman then called for member reports and recognized Michael French, who proceeded to go over the highlights of the report for the committee. He mentioned that Don Blanchard is working on a report of the history of the landfill.

A. Solid Waste Management in Henniker
History Outline by Michael French, 9/25/08

In his report, Michael pointed out that recycling rates have plateaued at the 1992 level. He reported from first-hand experience how a survey was conducted in 1991, which asked townspeople for suggestions to facilitate more recycling. Lia said another survey had been done in 2002 and offered to provide the details of that survey to Michael.

To quote a portion from his report:

“At Town Meeting in 1992, a warrant article passed which instructed the Selectmen and the Recycling Committee to propose a waste ordinance that promoted recycling to the greatest extent practicable.

“The Selectmen and Recycling Committee proposed an ordinance for vote at Town Meeting in 1993 that mandated aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles and cardboard be separated for collection at the transfer station. At that time it was required that scrap metals, appliances, lead batteries and waste oil be separated. The Recycling Committee and some other people felt that a pay per throw system would burden some or many families already struggling with the affects of a few years of a recession. Also, sources of information indicated that towns that had mandatory recycling achieved the highest recycling rates. The ordinance was defeated at the 1993 Town Meeting.”

Mr. French said that, although these would be beyond the purview of the Solid Waste Disposal Committee, he offered the following suggestions in his report for consideration:

“The outcome of the vote might well have been different if a greater effort had been made to include more members of the town in the development of the ordinance. Also, it would have helped considerably to have a significant educational and informational outreach to community members after the ordinance was developed, before the vote at Town Meeting.

“In addition, the Selectmen need to be fully in support of proposed changes and must be willing to take a lead role in promoting the adoption and implementation of the changes, especially if the changes will be adopted by town vote.”

Consensus seemed to be that active support from the Selectmen would be essential. Linda Patterson suggested that a campaign strategy would be needed to successfully propose changes and overcome objections. Lia Houk said that such a campaign should be expected to take at least two to three years, and that (in addition to Selectmen) community and business leaders, as well as the transfer station supervisor, should be invited to support the campaign. Stephany Lavallee recommended getting schools involved, and Lia suggested publicity in print.

Additionally, members agreed it that it would be best if a recycling program were structured to pay for itself and thereby remove operating costs from town budget and taxes. John Kjellman suggested perhaps that the transfer station could be separated from the town budget if it were operated like a utility, such as water & sewage.

B. Site Visits to Transfer Stations in Other Towns
by Donna Macmillan

Donna visited transfer stations in Bradford, Hillsborough, Hopkinton, Pembroke and Warner. She reported that Bradford and Hillsborough have mandatory recycling. In Hillsborough, people must purchase recycling bags supplied by the transfer station. The program in Hillsborough has been operating for about three years.

Donna reported that the Hillsborough transfer station has a protective cover, something like a canopy at a gas station, so that people are shielded from the weather when they come to the transfer station to recycle. Hillsborough accepts materials from Deering and Windsor as well. Hopkinton's station also accepts materials from Webster.

She reported that all the towns but Pembroke have "swap shops." Hopkinton simply uses tables and does not have a structure for this at the moment but hopes to construct one in the future. Of those towns that do have swap shops, most clean them out once per week. Bradford cleans its out every other week.

C. Recycled Materials Comparison:
Statistical Spreadsheets, including Henniker as well as other towns
By Linda Patterson

Linda distributed two spreadsheets to the committee.

One, titled "Recycling," included figures for population, newspaper, cardboard, mixed paper, office paper, glass, aluminum cans, steel cans, commingled cans, PETE, HDPE, commingled PETE and HDPE, metal and plastic containers, textiles, computer monitors and televisions, scrap metal, electronics, propane tanks, recycled "other," and swap shop participation.

Another, titled "Rationalized Recycling," included figures for population and combined facility population, reported tons per year, accepted value, commercial and industrial tons per year, construction and debris, MSW, compost, and recycling rates with and without commercial.

Linda said she would like to compare town budgets but is not sure how to go about it, and she asked committee members for suggestions. Stephany and John suggested that comparison between Henniker and one or two other towns should be sufficient. John recommended Linda look for data published by Peterborough, and perhaps Hillsborough, and to look for ratios for comparison. Lia asked which towns participate in a cooperative and which belong to NRRRA. Ron suggested looking at Plymouth's records. He believes their management is outstanding, having storage where they can hold onto certain materials to get the best market price. Michael and Ron suggested comparing recycling rates with and without commercial haulers.

D. Individual Report by Amanda Gilman, 9/25/08

The report submitted in writing by Amanda included:

- on-line resources for decision making
- list of internet resources for waste reduction, reuse and recycling
- 11 towns with the highest recycling rates
- brief status report on Naughton & Sons waste disposal company

- **Future Meeting Objectives**

October 9, 2008:

Single-Stream Recycling

October 23, 2008:

- Submit 2009 budget requests (printing, mailing, publicity, consulting, etc.)
- compare bus tour notes
- refine objectives for report to Selectmen

- **Other Business**

Coordination with the Recycling Committee was raised and tabled for a later date. Lia explained that the recycling committee is concentrating on education and advocacy.

- **Meeting Dates in December**

Not discussed.

- **Adjournment**

Michael French made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Stephany Lavallee and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Approved Meeting Minutes
Submitted by Sheila Mitchell,
Recording Secretary