

Town of Henniker
Solid Waste Disposal Committee
Eighteenth Meeting: Thursday, June 18, 7:00 PM
At The Grange

Approved Minutes

Present: Don Blanchard, Bill Christiano, Michael French, Amanda Gilman, Lia Houk, John V. Kjellman, and Linda Patterson

Absent: Donna MacMillan, Rod Pimentel

- 1) Chairman John Kjellman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
- 2) John addressed the comments that some members made at previous meetings about what they perceived as possible safety issues at the Transfer Station. John said he didn't feel that such issues should be included in the Committee's report, but that he would pass the comments along to Bob Pennock.
- 3) John said he was still concerned that some of the recyclable materials being picked up by commercial haulers may not actually be recycled, and that Committee members should be alert for any information that either proves or disproves this supposition.
- 4) **Amanda Gilman made a motion to accept the minutes from 6/4/09 without corrections, seconded by Linda Patterson and carried unanimously.**
- 5) Report from John on NRRRA Conference. John attended both days of the conference.
 - a. Keynote address by Jerry Powell indicated that the high peak in recycling prices from last summer were unsustainable, and likely won't happen again for a long time.
 - b. Marc Morgan from Lebanon Landfill gave a good talk on municipal budgeting. This facility serves 24 communities and is financially self-sustaining.
 - c. Roundtable discussion on Single Stream Recycling seemed to focus on the contamination issue. John pointed out that if a company is willing to pay for a recyclable product, then it is clean enough. If they start rejecting loads, or lower the prices they pay because of contamination, then the S/S facility has an economic incentive to reduce the contamination. In John's view, the contamination issue will be solved by market forces.

One benefit of S/S recycling is that S/S facilities will make a contract for one year, thus it would solve a budget problem we currently have, where we have no good way of accurately predicting recycling revenue for the coming year.

- d. Don Maurer from DES talked about how to calculate R/C rates. C&D, scrap metal, brush and yard waste all excluded. Composting of garbage is included, but only Keene in NH does composting, according to Maurer. Linda Patterson pointed out that from her site visits she has found several other communities that compost so this part might be inaccurate. John asked Linda Patterson to review the data from Don Maurer to reconcile it with her own information obtained from site visits. John noted that the EPA has 175-page publication on the subject, which he made available to committee members. One of the

handouts for this evening's meeting includes two tables from the EPA publication, which show what is and is not counted as recyclable material.

- e. Don Maurer is staff of one (a point he made several times). He will be out for a month and 2008 recycling numbers for N.H. won't be final for 2-3 more months.
 - f. C&D material comprises 23% of landfill material nationwide. There are some places that are recycling C&D rather than just simply landfilling it.
 - g. Food waste is 12% on average nationally (no figures for NH). Solid waste disposal in NH 7.1# /day/person, but heavily affected by 500,000 tourists a year. Maine is at 8.6.
 - h. EcoMaine has very active public awareness program on recycling. John has a CD they made. Lia commented that she had been impressed with EcoMaine's recycling program at last year's conference.
- 6) Bill Christiano plans to visit Bow Recycling before the next meeting in hopes to talk to someone, as he was still unable to obtain information over the phone.
- 7) Business survey reports and updates
- a. Don Blanchard reported on 4 businesses he surveyed. One business owner who was recycling cardboard is going to quit recycling all together because he has seen his hauler pick up his separated cardboard and put it in the same truck as his solid waste. This business pays \$280 a month for 2 dumpsters. He believes the current disposal System in Henniker is fine as it is and curbside pickup would only be advantageous if it was contracted out. This business also recycles metal privately. Another business Don surveyed pays \$175 per month for one dumpster. A third business Don surveyed recycles cardboard, metal and motor oil with a company called Safety Clean. This company fills one dumpster a week and noted that they have no interest in a PAYT program. The fourth business Don interviewed doesn't recycle their cardboard but does reuse most of it. They recycle their scrap metal privately and they do some other recycling when it is convenient by hauling it along with their trash to the Transfer Station themselves.
 - b. Mike French will be unable to contact Central Concrete so Amanda Gilman agreed to pursue this business survey.
- 8) Review of business survey spreadsheet: The committee reviewed the first draft of the spreadsheet created by Amanda Gilman. Group consensus was that if the spreadsheet can fit on one page it would be better. John suggested using abbreviations and including a key or legend. Amanda will revise the spreadsheet for the next meeting.
- 9) Henniker property valuation analysis prepared by John Kjellman. Businesses pay about 14% of Town property taxes and residents are paying 86%. This is corrected for exemptions but not for the Veterans Tax credit, which is a relatively small amount. In 2008, 3144 tons were sent to Penacook, 469 tons from B&A, 1569 tons from NSR (2038, 65%), and 1106 tons from T/S (35%).

John presented two scenarios that illustrate the fact that it appears that businesses create a disproportionate amount of trash compared to residents. He said that businesses pay 14% of the Town's property taxes, but under one assumption businesses generate 36% of the trash, under another assumption it is 55%. This is significant because the argument has been made that businesses are taxpayers and

should be able to dispose of their trash without cost just as residents do. (If they use a commercial hauler they now have to pay the tipping fee for the trash.)

Lia said it might be useful to separate hauling and tipping fees out of the TS budget, to get the portion of taxes that go to the operation of the TS, as businesses that use haulers don't use the transfer station. The point being that even though they may be generating proportionally more trash than residents, the fact that they are not using the TS should be taken into account.

Linda noted that some business haul their own recyclables to the TS, which does contribute to the revenue stream and thus might shift these numbers. Lia pointed out that in general residents probably recycle a higher percentage of their waste than do businesses, and Amanda said she didn't think businesses recycled enough cardboard to have much of an impact on recycling revenue. It was pointed out that businesses might really benefit from single stream recycling.

It was noted that having tonnage numbers from the different haulers might aid in the accuracy of these calculations. Amanda Gilman will make another attempt to find out from Naughton the percentages of the trash it picks from residents and businesses. John said he intends to "track down" B&A Waste before our report is finished.

- 10) Review of John's draft report to Town. Comments on Version 4 handed out at last meeting. Version 5 handed out at tonight's meeting.
 - a. Plan for BOS: Final meeting review 8/13 (Thr), BOS presentation 8/18 (Tue).
Very tentative at this point, John will meet with Tom Watman.
 - b. Executive Summary. John noted due to the expected size of the report that we will need some sort of executive summary. Don Blanchard said he would be willing to work on that project.
 - c. John asked Lia about doing a Power Point presentation of the executive summary, and she said she would do that.
- 11) **Motion to adjourn by Mike French at 8:36pm, seconded by Linda Patterson and carried unanimously.**

Submitted 6/23/09

By Amanda Gilman

Reviewed 7/03/09

By John Kjellman

Approved as submitted:

7/09/09