

Town of Henniker
Solid Waste Disposal Committee
Twenty-Second Meeting: Thursday, July 9, 2009, 7:00 PM
At The Grange

Approved Minutes

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

Absent: Donald Blanchard, Amanda Gilman

1. **Chairman John Kjellman called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.**
2. Introduction by Chairman.
 - a. Concord started its PAYT program on Monday. There was a article in the Monitor a few days ago that talked about a shortage of bags, but overall it didn't seem like a big problem. The city reported 91% compliance the first day, and the chairman of the Concord Solid Waste Advisory Committee was quoted as saying that when he drove around he had never seen so much recycling material out for pickup. Rod Pimentel commented that he read that in the weeks prior to the start of PAYT, the amount of waste increased significantly as people cleaned up in anticipation of the new rules.
 - b. HB 338, which provides a N.H. definition of E-Waste, was just signed by Gov. Lynch. John will ask Amanda to get a copy of the new regulation.
 - c. The NRRA continues to report slight improvements in the price for recycled materials. Metals, cardboard and mixed paper are leading the way in better prices. Plastics are only marginally above zero.
3. The minutes of the June 18, 2009 meeting were reviewed. **Lia Houk made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, without corrections. The motion was seconded by Michael French. The motion passed unanimously.**
4. Linda Patterson pointed out that the Peterborough Recycling Center was awarded a Community Beautification Award from the N.H. Arborists Association. Linda commented on her positive impression of the landscaping at the Peterborough Recycling Center when she visited it.
5. Bow Recycling (again): John said he asked Bonnie at NRRA what she knew about Bow Recycling. She said the company hauls some glass for NRRA, but didn't know anything about its recycling program. She said she would not be comfortable asking Bow Recycling about its operations. Bill Christiano said he made a visit and that the facility is not impressive. A home has been converted for use as an office. Serendipitously, Bill met the owner, Stanley Emanuel, who was cordial but not at all eager to talk. Bill said the firm also operates as Zero Waste Recycling Services, Inc.

Bill said that at the same time he met Bob Allgaier, president and CEO of Pinard Waste Systems, who was more than willing to talk, but couldn't at that time because he had other commitments. Bob indicated he didn't know much about Henniker's solid waste disposal operations, but indicated he would be willing to talk to Bill at a later time.

Bill observed that the Bow Recycling facility was dirty and cluttered. He saw a big pile of trash, but did not see any quantities of recyclable materials.

6. Recycling rates: John said he wanted to correct a statement he made at the last meeting, when he said yard waste taken to the T/S does not count as recycling. He said according to the EPA, it does. He said he called Don Maurer at DES to ask about the comment Don made at the NRRA conference that only Keene in N.H. does composting, but he is out until July 27, getting “new” knees.

Linda reiterated her comment of the previous meeting that it is her observation that many communities are doing composting. John said perhaps he misheard Don, and would contact him after he returns to work.

7. John said he talked with Bonnie at NRRA about the rules regarding moisture in cardboard. Bonnie said the spec is no more than 8% moisture content, and that sometimes it is checked. John said that makes clear that storing cardboard where it is exposed to the weather is not allowable. He said Bonnie also said cardboard breaks down in direct sunlight, and renders it not usable for recycling.
8. Linda Patterson said she did another business survey; a grocery store. It has two 5-6 yard dumpsters which are emptied once a week by Naughton, one for trash and one for cardboard, which is recycled. The manager didn't want to say how much Naughton was charging for the service. He did say the store generates a lot of food waste that could be composted. Right now some farmers pick up some of it for their pigs, but much of it is tossed as trash. He ventured the opinion that a pay-per-bag disposal program would not be good for Henniker. In the ensuing discussion it was pointed out by committee members that by hiring Naughton, the store itself was on a PAYT program.
9. Rod Pimentel said he surveyed the owner of a mobile home park. The business does not provide any dumpsters so mobile home owners are left to their own devices to dispose of their trash and recyclable materials. Presumably most if not all take it to the T/S.
10. John noted that Amanda is not at the meeting, so we can't review her spreadsheet to summarize the pertinent information that resulted from the business surveys.
11. Rod said he had spent some time working on his section of the report about why a new landfill or town-operated incinerator is not in Henniker's future. He said it was very difficult to find numbers that were relevant that could be used in a spreadsheet, and that he came to the conclusion that a town like Henniker could not do either option on its own, that greater volume was needed and that only a COOP could feasibly operate a landfill or incinerator. And guess what? Henniker is part of a COOP. John said he agreed, and asked Rod to simply write up a few paragraphs that make that point. He said the fact that a multi-million dollar investment would be required with either option, with higher, not lower, operating costs, is enough to justify our decision to discount these options. Rod said he would write something up that could be used by John in the final report.
12. Draft version of report to BOS. John responded to Rod's comments by saying that what has been happening is committee members have been gathering information and writing reports, and he was using those reports to write the committee report. He said it is a two-step process. Committee members provide information to John, and then committee

members need to review the draft report not only to fix minor problems of syntax and typos, but also to see if they agree with the report. John said it is important that members feel ownership, that this is to be a committee report, not his report. In order for that to happen, John said it is important for him to get feedback from the committee, as the report will be better if it reflects the thinking of all members, not just those of the principal author.

Lia asked if each member could be e-mailed the draft report file, so they could make comments and track changes directly in the report file. John said he thought that was a good idea when the report becomes a little further developed, but at this time he said he preferred just to get written or verbal comments.

13. John then talked about his conversation with chairman of the BOS, Tom Watman about presenting the report to the BOS. They worked out a plan which calls for the committee to submit the final report to the Town secretary on 9/11/09, and to make a one-hour presentation to the BOS at its regular meeting on 9/15. Tom said he would plan for a one hour presentation and 30 minutes of Q&A. That would be followed by further discussion between the committee and the BOS on 10/6. Depending on the outcome of that discussion, there could be a public forum in late October or Early November to discuss whatever changes the BOS thinks should be considered by the Town.
14. John asked the committee to focus on the introduction of the draft report which deals with economic and fairness issues, and the first five options, as he feels that part of the report is getting close to finished form. In particular, does the committee agree with opening the report talking about economic and fairness issues that exist with the present system?
15. John told Linda he would like her to do some type of written introduction for her spreadsheet of neighboring towns.. She pointed out that it was difficult, because what she found is that every community is different. There was a discussion about this, and Lia suggested we can say something about how many of neighbors are PAYT, and what towns have scales, etc. Rod asked, did you see some towns that stood out in one way or another? Linda said yes, Peterborough, Plymouth. Rod asked, what made them standout. Linda said that was very subjective, that in some cases it showed a lot of ownership by the staffs. Lia said that was important and worth noting. There was a further discussion on the issue of “subjective” versus “objective,” Linda thinking that everything in the report was going to be objective. The consensus was that there is a lot in the report that will be based on subjective judgments. Rod said what he was getting at is, were some communities more successful in some way (higher recycling, for instance), and if so, why?
16. John reviewed the future meeting schedule:
 - a. Thursday PM, 7/23/09 --Regular Committee Meeting
 - b. Thursday PM, 8/13/09 -- Regular Committee Meeting
 - c. Thursday PM, 8/27/09 -- Regular Committee Meeting
 - d. Thursday PM, 9/10/09 -- Regular Committee Meeting
 - e. **Friday AM, 9/11/09 -- Final report to Town Secretary (John)**
 - f. **Tuesday PM, 9/15/09 --Presentation to Board of Selectmen**

- g. Thursday PM, 9/24/09 -- Regular Committee Meeting
- h. Tuesday PM, 10/6/09 -- Follow-up discussion with Board of Selectmen**
- i. Thursday PM, 10/15/09 -- Regular Committee Meeting
- j. Late October/Early November -- Public Forum (tentative)**

17. **Donna MacMillian made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Michael French. The motion carried unanimously at 7:57 PM.** John then announced that members couldn't leave yet, and presented the committee with a one-year birthday cake, saying tomorrow was the one-year anniversary of the committee's first meeting.

Submitted 7/11/09

By John Kjellman

Corrected and Approved 7/23/09