

Town of Henniker
Solid Waste Disposal Committee
Thirty-First Meeting: Thursday, January 7, 2010, 7:00 PM
At The Grange

Approved Minutes

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

Absent: Amanda Gilman

- 1) 1) **Chairman John Kjellman called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.**
- 2) 2) Handouts: Agenda; Draft minutes of December 3rd meeting; Notes on interviews with B&A Waste, Naughton & Sons, and Gerry Cornett, manager of New Boston Transfer Station; Spreadsheet and key of business survey; New York Times article on Cancer From the Kitchen?; Report Version 12d, with Appendix 7 separately.
- 3) 3) John reviewed the list of handouts and said that the article on Cancer From the Kitchen has nothing to do with the Committee, except it points out how very tiny amounts of toxic chemicals can affect our health, and why the proper disposal of solid waste is important.
- 4) 4) He went on to say that Tom Watman has resigned as chairman of the BOS, but is still on the Board. Leon Parker is the new chair and Kris Blombeck is the new vice chair. John said that the change reflected some differences about the development of Class VI roads in Town, and Tom said he (Tom) could no longer represent the views of the majority so he was resigning as chair.
- 5) 5) John said that New London is planning to bring the issue of Single-Stream recycling to the Town at this year's meeting. This follows a presentation to the New London BOS by Liz Bedard of the Concord COOP. The board also voted to switch to a PAYT system at the time S/S recycling goes into effect, if possible, but separately, otherwise.
- 6) 6) The minutes of the meeting of December 3, 2009 meeting were reviewed. **Don Blanchard moved to accept the minutes as submitted, Rod Pimentel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with abstentions by Michael C. French, Lia Houk and Donna MacMillan.**
- 7) 7) Don Blanchard mentioned that he is leaving for California next week, and will be gone a couple of months. John said he will meet with Don before he leaves, to talk about the executive summary, and a way to get Don's signature and approval on our final report.
- 8) 8) John said that Amanda had updated the business survey spreadsheet, and that it was one of the handouts. He said he hadn't reviewed it yet, and said he wasn't sure how useful the spreadsheet statistics would be, but that he thought the reports that committee members made about their interviews were very useful, and helped shape the report. He said the survey was a very useful project.

- 9) 9) John reviewed his interviews with Ben Tokarz of B&A Waste and George Naughton of Naughton and Sons Recycling, and mentioned that his notes from the interview were part of the handouts. He said both interviews were good, although it was a bit harder to track down George. Both companies seem willing to cooperate with the Town when they can.
- 10) 10) John said he (John) thought it would be beneficial to Ben and his customers if Ben could dump his trash in the hopper at the Transfer Station, as he once did, for a fee. He could weigh at one of the scales in Town.
- 11) 11) John also reviewed his visit with Gerry Cornett, manager of the New Boston Transfer Station. Gerry is a former employee of the Henniker Transfer Station. John said he runs a very impressive operation, and has a very sophisticated software system that allows him to keep track of everything that comes in and out at the transfer station. John said he thought Gerry would be a good candidate for Bob's job when Bob retires. New Boston has mandatory recycling and Gerry opened a bag of trash to inspect while he was there. Gerry said it was a new resident. He doesn't inspect the trash of people of people who he knows knows the rules.
- 12) 12) John said George told him (Naughton) is now making one run a week, starting up north at New London, picking up commingled recyclable materials from dumpsters. He takes the collected material to Hooksett, where it eventually goes to a single-stream recycling facility. In Henniker, only New England College is using the service. George said he does charge for the service, and would be happy to pick up more dumpsters, but most businesses don't want to pay for the service, and many don't have room for another dumpster. George also charges to pickup cardboard. Ben doesn't, because it saves him money.
- 13) 13) John said one thought for the Town is that if we could implement some sort of collection service at the same time we switched to single-stream recycling, perhaps we could avoid the expense of a new compactor at the transfer station, and we could have the commingled material trucked out of Town without going through the T/S.
- 14) 14) John reported on the Kjellman family (4 adults plus two very small businesses which generate paper mostly) recycling rate over 84 days: 66% w/home compost, 60% if garbage was taken to T/S, it would be 78% if home composting counted. John said the point is to indicate that recycling rates from 50-70% are feasible for most households.
- 15) 15) John reviewed the latest incarnation of the Committee report (Vers 12d), and said that he felt it was pretty much complete in terms of content and organization, that he had redone the introduction and consolidated the three final sections into one, based on the comments members made when we reviewed the previous version on 12/3/09. But he also said he wasn't sure of all the numbers and enclosures, and would be working on that next. He said the summary spreadsheet isn't done yet, either. He asked for a critical view of the writing only.
- 16) 16) John reviewed some of the report conclusions, which the committee discussed. Rod Pimentel suggested that any type of single-stream processing that encouraged material

to be picked up in Town and brought to the T/S, where it would be consolidated, would not be good because it would mean extra handling.

- 17) 17) John said he was surprised when he saw data that showed that trash loads from the T/S to Penacook are not always full. He said that Bob told him that it is a scheduling issue, Bob can't reliably call the trucker just when the trailer is full, he needs to schedule the pickups, which means the trailer is more full sometimes than other times. Bob told John that he also has to worry about overloads. The committee discussed that issue a bit, wondering if there might be a potential for cost savings in this area.
- 18) 18) Michael French said that one of the things Concord does is it charges commercial haulers a tipping fee that is higher than the Coop's, a PAYT system for the commercial firms. They use the extra revenue to help pay for the recycling program. Michael said they were charging \$58/ton, before the price went up. (The COOP's fee was \$45.90, a spread of 12.10/ton). Michael said that we have been giving our commercial haulers a deal by only charging them the actual COOP tipping fee. If we charged them more, it would give them and their customers an increased incentive to recycle. Don asked if adding an additional fee could be enough to run someone like B&A Waste out of business. Michael suggested that if he was running his business properly, he would raise his rates to compensate for his increased costs. Don said he thought that Ben was reluctant to raise rates. Lia Houk said she knows B&A Waste caters more to residents than businesses, and that they are more sensitive to a price change of a few dollars per month.
- 19) 19) Linda Patterson wondered if the Town did do something to allow B&A Waste to dump its trash at the T/S, for a fee, if it would be legal not allow Naughton to do the same. Rod said perhaps the service could be reasonably limited by truck size.
- 20) 20) Rod said another way to look at it is to add the premium for dumping trash, but to give the haulers some sort of economic incentive to pickup more recycling, so what they lose on trash they could get back on recyclables.
- 21) 21) Michael pointed out that when we talk about PAYT for individuals, we don't talk about that as a penalty, so adding a fee to the haulers shouldn't be looked at as a penalty, either.
- 22) 22) John mentioned that he had been wondering what a town's responsibility is for solid waste disposal, and had found RSA 149-M, which lays out State policy and says that towns must provide for access to a solid waste disposal, but it doesn't say much about what that facility must do, and it does not require recycling. He said State policy prefers incineration over landfilling. Towns do have wide latitude for imposing fees and even registering commercial haulers.
- 23) 23) Michael said that one concern he had with the previous version of the report is that he thought some of the projections for saving and increases in recycling rates were too conservative. He thought that achieving a 50% recycling rate at the T/S is doable, and that we should look at the potential for higher recycling rates from the commercial

sector. Linda suggested that we also need better numbers of exactly what we handle at the T/S and what it costs to process it. John said that he calculated that 5% of the solid waste picked up by the commercial haulers is being recycled as cardboard at the T/S.

24) 24) Michael said that his rationalized recycling rate spreadsheet offers some data that can be useful in setting our recycling rate goals.

25) 25) Next meeting: Thursday, 1/21/10 at 7:00 pm at The Grange.

26) 26) **A motion to adjourn was made by Don Blanchard at 8:24 PM. It was seconded by Donna MacMillan and carried unanimously.**

Submitted 1/11/2010

By John V. Kjellman

Corrected and Approved

1/21/2010