

Transfer Station and Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes

Town Hall – Chenery Room

January 14, 2019

PRESENT: Chairman Megan Sullivan, Barbara Meyer, Andrea Costello, and Nancy Irwin

Also present: Robert Kennedy Jr., Mike Sullivan, Maurice Goulet, Mary Pat McSharry, and Annette Wells

Megan Sullivan called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

The minutes for December were approved.

The committee will recommend to the selectmen that Annette Wells be appointed to the committee.

Revolving Fund

There is about \$6800 in the Revolving Fund.

Styrofoam & Electronics Collection Jan. 5

Another successful collection was coordinated by Barb Meyer. Two truckloads were needed for the Styrofoam collected on Jan. 5, so we anticipate a charge of \$600 (\$300 for each truckload). The tent was very helpful as there was so much Styrofoam.

ElectronixRedux collected electronics but left by 11:30 and we had advertised that they would be collecting until 12:00. We received conflicting reports about why. They reported that they had only had 1 week notification, that workers were committed elsewhere, but that timing is not consistent with conversations with others on the board and DPW. We will ask for a commitment for the next collection we hope to have in May.

Plastic Reduction Initiative Update

Andy reported on the progress of the reduction initiative. She learned from Shaw's that if plastic bags are banned at retail checkout, they will still continue to collect plastic bags for recycling. In addition, Shaw's is on board with what the town decides. Shaw's is willing to have a table devoted to plastic-use reduction one day to promote the initiative.

Across the state, CVS has been getting around bylaws by supplying thicker bags, which has led to towns amending bylaws; our proposed bylaw precludes plastic bags at check-out, without reference to thickness. Enforcement is generally left to some combination of Town Administration, Board of Health, or the Police, but it is recommended that one of those agencies be specified. Proposed state legislation would supersede towns' bylaws.

The proposed by-law is ready for the Selectmen. Andy is requesting that the Board of Selectmen sponsor the bylaw along with TSARC.

SWAP

Nancy and Mary Pat distributed “Volunteers at the Town of Medfield Swap Area” (includes “Volunteer Procedures and Guidelines”) and the “Medfield Swap Guidelines” for all to read and review. Additionally they gave a report of the 2018 Swap Shop summarizing the successes and evolution of the 2018 layout and communications. Julie Marto created a FB page for the Swap Shop; email address was established to help with communications (medfieldswapshop@gmail.com); SignUpGenius was instituted to coordinate volunteer shifts.

For 2019 Nancy and Mary Pat are proposing set-up days April 20, 21, 27, and 28; opening Wednesday, May 1; closing Saturday, September 28.

They are asking for 1) paving areas around the edges, 2) marking the drive-thru loop with lines and arrows (That would have to be coordinated with Town-wide street lining), and 3) placement of cement barriers to mark the entrance lane. Additional signage for the drive-thru could be volunteer-made, with monies for the materials. Moving the fire trailer and more regular Police presence at the Transfer Station are also on their radar. Maurice explained that additional Police details are budgeted but often not available due to limited police availability due to need for road construction details.

Mary Pat and Nancy inquired about having a summer intern (50 days at 7.5 hours/day = 375 hours). It was suggested that they advertise for an unpaid volunteer (e.g., college/community service). Mike noted there is coverage for volunteers on Town insurance, although the exact type was not noted.

Nancy and Mary Pat requested \$500 from TSARC to purchase materials for the season and suggested that they offer UpCycle Workshops at the Swap for residents to paint or upcycle furniture for a possible fee (say \$5-20), or “suggested donation”. Maurice noted he would split the funds needed for the UpCycle workshops with the revolving fund. The \$500 was approved for supplies.

Maurice and Bobby requested that they be notified via email if there are problems with residents/shoppers to inform them of what occurred. They could then follow-up.

The swap opening and closing dates will be finalized at our next meeting.

Organics

In an effort to increase usage of the organics program, we will produce a brochure that will be distributed with the new stickers. Andy came with a sample flyer which we will update and incorporate additional copy. Maurice said he will pay for these flyers.

Public Space Recycling

Maurice and Bobby have decided to purchase the plastic trash and recycling containers for the spaces in front of North St. Market, Subway, and Brothers. It is planned that these will be in place the spring.

Mattress Recycling Program

The MassDEP sponsorship of the mattress program concludes January 31, 2019. We would like to continue the program but the cost is more than \$15,000 a year so we would like the people dropping off the mattress to pay the fee (In the 2017 sticker survey, residents were overwhelmingly in favor of this). Ultimately we want mattress fees to be paid online, which will require some kind of receipt, but that will be a while, and may be difficult to enforce without an attended gate. There should be outreach now to residents that changes are coming for mattress deposition. Maurice proposed the Revolving Fund and the Town split the costs of continued pick-up, until we have fee protocol in place.

It was noted that occasionally the mattress trailer is full. When this happens, mattresses are disposed on the tip floor. If there was a fee, would this create confusion? It was noted that the fee would be for the *disposal* of the mattress, and whether it was recycled, or put on the tip floor. The fee would remain a constant.

Megan shared a quote from a kiosk vendor who could place a kiosk at the Transfer Station to accept payments for mattresses (and other items). She offered that The Trustees of Reservations is very happy with this kiosk vendor that they use for parking certification and fees for non-members. The quote is for \$10,000 to establish the service, \$1,100 for training and costs \$1,200 annually to maintain. It does print out a receipt. Recycling dividends funds could be used for this.

Note that refrigerator and air conditioning units also have costs to the Town for recycling (b/c of the Freon/refrigerant recovery) and might also be an appropriate use of such a kiosk. With a kiosk, payment for other items such as tvs, bulky furniture etc. could also be collected.

Layout Planning/Efficiency Project

No new updates

Contract Pricing Search

Maurice is working with a consultant to find a vendor/solution that keeps our recycling fee per ton at or less than \$80/ton.

Cost Control Alternatives

At this time, the DPW is not interested in pursuing a source-separated recycling program which might result in lower costs as the recycling market is in a lot of flux. Work continues with the consultant to determine the best solution for the layout/operation.

Planning for New TS Stickers

Mike recommended that we consider 1-year stickers, rather than two-year stickers, at this time. On-line registration and payment for a TS sticker will be available with the sticker being sent out by mail. This will be promoted as the preferred method. Getting the sticker in person at the Town Hall is also an option.

Some discussion was held regarding the fee. Given what it actually costs to run the transfer station and the increased recycling costs, a two year fee of \$150 was discussed, keeping the \$25 fee for additional vehicles. In addition, there would be a fee for mattresses. The committee will revisit this at our next

meeting. The fees are actually set by the Board of Selectmen. The warrant committee also often has a recommendation as it is a source of revenue during the budget process.

Maurice would like to know what surveys or brochures we recommend be included when stickers are mailed out. Rules and Regulations brochure/s and organics information are likely inserts with sticker mail-outs, with a survey being available online.

PR/Communications Plan

It is recommended that we communicate to residents which electronics (including CRTs, LEDs, CPUs, radios, household plug-in items, etc.) should be recycled (e.g., ElectronixRedux, Staples, Best Buy), which should go to the metal recycling, and which to the tip floor. DEP guidelines would be a good source for that information.

Annette Wells offered to look into using Constant Contact for our database of sticker holders. This would allow us to communicate directly and efficiently to transfer station users.

Next Meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 11, 2019 at 9:00.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.