

Transfer Station and Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes

Town Hall – Chenery Room

February 22, 2016

PRESENT: Chairman Megan Sullivan, Ann Thompson, Barbara Meyer, Steve Catanese, Nancy Irwin, Rachel Brown, Tony Centore, Ken Feeney, Bobby Kennedy, Jr., and Michael Sullivan.

Also present—Gail Biancucci from the Epilepsy Foundation Donation Center and Donna Cimeno

Megan Sullivan called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the December meeting minutes with changes.

Transfer Station Report/Financials

Results for the fiscal year since July were reviewed. Compared to last fiscal year recycling tons are down 3.3% and trash tons are up 2.5%. Different ways of looking at the data were discussed including comparing to a 12 month running average for the previous to smooth monthly fluctuations.

Transfer Station Sticker Application Survey

Rachel Brown thoroughly analyzed and submitted a report on the results from the surveys on the reverse of the Transfer Station Sticker application. Thank you Rachel! 785 surveys were completed. A few highlights include:

- 12% of TS users also have a private waste hauler
- Satisfaction with the SWAP area
- Appreciation for the TS employees and the assistance they give
- Desire for transfer station to be open later hours as well as Sundays. (Ken Feeney explained that this is difficult due to extra cost for personnel.)
- High use of electronics disposal even though this is a “pay for service”. Residents are willing to pay for the convenience of this service.
- 20% of respondents indicated interest in an organics composting program at the Transfer Station, with 1/3 of those indicating a willingness to pay for it.

Rachel distributed copies of the comments from the survey, and committee members divided up the categories to parse for further threads and suggestions for our next meeting.

Tent Update

The Rhino tent at the SWAP area was damaged and will be replaced. If funds permit, an additional tent will be supplied as well to expand the covered areas.

Ken and Bobby Kennedy are working to have the swap area repaved, and the new tent(s?) installed by April 29th so the Swap volunteers can get organized before the swap opens on Wednesday May 4th.

Ken Feeney Retirement

Ken Feeney has announced an official retirement date at the end of February. He will stay on in a consulting capacity to assist with the transition to a new DPW director. Kristine Trierweiler is coordinating a search for his replacement and has asked Megan Sullivan to be on the search committee. Megan acknowledged Ken's dedicated service to the town and his support of many new initiatives. There will be a formal "thank you" event for Ken when the new DPW director is on board.

Swap Area Partnership Proposal from Gail Biancucci of the Epilepsy Foundation Donation Center

Gail presented a proposal for the collection of textiles and household goods. EF would place 2 larger containers at the TS. One would be adjacent to the Goodwill trailer and one would be in the Swap area. In addition, they would place 1 or 2 donation bins in the area with the other donation bins. EF would come by once a week to empty all the containers. If the containers needed more frequent emptying, all we would have to do is call and they would be there within 24 hours. Medfield will receive 7¢ for each pound of textiles collected. In addition to providing a bin at the swap area, EF will provide an end of season clean-out of the Swap, as they did last year. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the proposal and move forward with a working relationship. Gail will provide Ken with the specific size containers for his approval before placement.

A request was made to evaluate and perhaps "edit" the existing donation bins at the transfer station. Donna will work on gathering the details about the bins so we can discuss at our next meeting.

Grant Funds

1. Organic Collection: MassDEP has awarded Town of Medfield a Grant for organics collection for the residents. The grant will assist with making containers available at the Transfer Station, transportation of organics collected, and education about the program. There are options for the pails that residents would purchase from the Town, or from vendors in town. It was suggested that the Town might buy bio bags for the residents. The shelf-life of bio-bags is 1 year, and that bio-bags start to biodegrade within 3 days when they are being used. Four 65-gallon containers could be located between windows at the tip floor and could be acquired free from E.O.M.S., assuming that we went with them as hauler. Whether the town should pursue a 2 yard open top container for the organics program or utilize 64 gallon containers was discussed and the 64 gallon containers are the preferred collection equipment. Rachel will continue to work on this program and report back in March.
2. Small Scale Initiatives: MassDEP has awarded Town of Medfield this grant. We may utilize this as part of the organics collection start up.
3. Mattress Collection: MassDEP has awarded the Town of Medfield with a mattress collection grant. This will allow residents to dispose of used mattresses at the Transfer Station.

Enforcement Issues/Suggestions

After a reviewing some photos from the tip floor that included a lot of cardboard and continuing our discussion on how to enforce our mandatory recycling rules, Ken suggested that a part-time summer employee could be hired for this purpose at the transfer station. This person could wear a uniform and/or hat, be present at the tip floor windows and educate residents on recycling to increase the recycling tonnage.

Police detail on Saturdays has been reinstated. The police department had some staffing issues but they have been resolved and the details have been in place. In the future if the Police Department cannot staff a detail they will let Ken know so he can staff it with a DPW employee.

MassDEP Regional Meeting December 2015

Town of Medfield received three awards from MassDEP. We were recognized for the following:

- Recognition for Household Hazardous Waste Day consortium participation
- Recognition for the largest tonnage for textile collections
- Recognition went to the Medfield Green Volunteers

Next meeting will be scheduled for March 14 2016, 10:00 am.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Cimeno and Barb Meyer