

Transfer Station and Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes

Town Hall – Chenery Room

May 9, 2016

PRESENT: Chairman Megan Sullivan, Ann Thompson, Barbara Meyer, Nancy Irwin, Ken Feeney, Bobby Kennedy Jr. and Michael Sullivan.

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

Megan wanted to extend her appreciation to all members for their hard work and support of our many programs. It is through everyone's work that we are able to accomplish so much.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the April meeting minutes.

Financial/Operating Report – The numbers aren't looking great. Trash tons are up 3% while recycling tons are only up .4%. We will keep an eye on this in the coming months.

Swap Update: Nancy thanked the highway department for paving the SWAP area. There were twenty (20) volunteers who assisted (a total of 95 hours) in getting the SWAP area up and running for opening day on May 4, 2016.

Note: Wooden pallets either go onto the tip floor—or donate to the SWAP Area where they are used to keep items off the ground.

Donation Bins: We are waiting for the Epilepsy Foundation bins to arrive. There will be 4 bins in total.

Medfield Green Month: Reports that Medfield Green Month for May is very successful so far.

Electronic Redux has informally expressed concern that they are not getting the volume of materials to support their commitment to collecting each month at the Transfer Station. Note that Medfield has not stipulated what they can charge for their recycling electronic items. They are encouraged to contact Ken directly to discuss options.

New Programs:

Organics: The program is off to a good start. We have sold 12 full kits and 5 kitchen scrap buckets. We received \$500 as a sponsorship from the Garden Continuum. Mike and Megan will investigate having Wills Hardware sell the BioBags. Other possible sources are Home Depot and Amazon.

Mattresses: The mattress container has arrived. We anticipate signage to arrive in the mail.

Grant Funds:

FY16 – Small Scale Incentive Program, we will utilize to offset costs of Uline bucket containers for Organics collection.

FY17 – Application is due by June 15, 2016. We will ask for Small Scale Initiatives, Recycling Dividends and a compactor to increase the number of recycling compactors. If we get the compactor grant, it may have to be supplemented with additional funds. If needed, these funds may have to go through the town’s capital budget process.

New Member Recruitment: Press releases are out and have also been on the Patch. We are looking for up to three (3) new members for the Committee.

Transfer Station Stickers: Effective May 16, 2016, VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to decrease the price of stickers to \$30.00 for first vehicle and \$15.00 for additional vehicles for the second of the two-year sticker cycle. Megan suggested researching online payment method for renewals in June 2017. All committee members, please be thinking of questions/points that should be included in the next survey to accompany renewals.

Recycling Enforcement: More education is needed for residents regarding mandatory recycling at the transfer station. Ken suggested the line/point of view, “Excuse me. I'll take that cardboard to be recycled. Medfield recycles.” DPW workers try that approach when they are available at the tip floor windows.

Ken has asked DPW staff to help people unload cars at the compactors to help move the cars faster through the recycling area. The trial three car stops in a lane of recycling did not move traffic through more efficiently.

After July 1st, summer help will be on board and one of those workers will be assigned to help educate at the tip floor windows.

The possibility of recording license plate numbers of people who are trashing recyclable items on the tip floor and subsequently sending an “OOPS!” letter was discussed, but not acted on. A draft “OOPS!” letter was circulated among board members.

Megan mentioned the desire to continue to educate the community about the issues facing the Transfer Station including solid waste and recycling issues. This might take the form of a newsletter or perhaps a meeting or presentation.

Social Media: Rachel will be setting up a Facebook page for the Recycling Committee.

Upcoming Events: Regional Meeting is set for June 8, 2016.

Next Committee Meeting will be June 13, 2016 at 10:00 A.M.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M.