

Recycling and Waste Disposal Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2013

PRESENT: Pat Bracken, Chairman, Bob Nugent, Chris Kowalski, E. Cabral
Chairman Bracken opened the meeting.

Guests: P. Williams (Tri Town News) D. Marcoux (Casella Waste Systems)

MINUTES

Motion was made by C. Kowalski to accept the minutes of March 13, 2013 as written. Ms. Cabral seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Current recycling rate- In March the rate was at 27%, and up from 26% in February. The recycling tons were at 62.38 and the tons for MSW were at 171.59.

The trash stickers are still selling. This year through March 31st, there have been 317 sold.

Planet Aid Container- There is currently one located at Hazel Drive. Mr. Nugent hasn't contacted them but will and he will see that it is all set to be placed at the highway department.

The recycling dumpster at the town garage needs to be monitored to see how often it is getting full. Mrs. Harrington said it had just been emptied after the last meeting and will see how long until it needs to be dumped again.

Casella/Bestway- Mr. Marcoux is the Assistant General Manager of Casella, which purchased Bestway Disposal our current curbside trash company. Mr. Kowalski asked Mr. Marcoux about the purchase of Bestway. Mr. Marcoux informed the committee about the history of Casella. It was started about 30 years ago by two brothers, one which is still at the helm, John Casella. They are located in Eastern New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. There have some areas in Northern Essex County in Massachusetts as well. He noted that the New Hampshire branch is handled out of Salem, NH office.

He explained the single stream process with Casella and explained that they have two single stream facilities one in Rutland, VT, and one in Charlestown, MA. The sites are clean waste stream which makes the end product more marketable. In looking at Bestway (also known as BBI- Blow Brothers) they saw a good opportunity to get more New Hampshire markets as well as Maine. He noted that they try to keep the name of the companies they purchase because the people know the name. He explained that they will mainstream the back end and consolidate services where they can after any the buyout. They like the personnel touch and a company that listens to what is happening on the street and that was attractive to Casella. He went on to explain that the number used by residents to contact Bestway will now go to a call center in Rutland, Vermont. From here, he explained they record and log the phone calls, contact the appropriate dispatcher and get the call handled. He estimated it takes about 3- 4 minutes for the whole call.

Mr. Marcoux was asked what other local towns they have and he responded that with Bestway there is Stratham, Newfields, and Newmarket along with communities up around Belmont NH. Mr. Kowalski asked about the town of Danville, he noticed that Casella picks them up and that they use the tote system and whether or not Mr. Marcoux thought Hampstead should do things differently and what he saw in the future. Mr. Marcoux replied that in Danville they use the "one armed bandit" to pick up the trash and recycling. He said it worked well but is an issue in cul-de-sacs. He talked about the wet waste and dry waste and how what can be recycled will drive what will be picked up as trash in the future. He noted that a wet toter could weigh as much as 300 pounds and it strains the hydraulics of the toter system. He also explained that he sees natural gas vehicles as the future which is a lower impact to the environment and down the road a split body vehicle to pick up both. As recycling goes up and MSW goes down the trucks can stay on the routes longer because there would be fewer trips to the landfill. With the automated

system there is also less falls and less wear and tear on the employees' knees and hips etc. He also noted that it is hard to get over the 30% threshold for recycling numbers. He reported that Exeter is currently at a standstill.

He offered the services to help teach the children in the school system about recycling. He was adamant that this was the best place to teach about recycling. There was a contact with Casella that could help with the flyer that is sent out each year and that works with the schools as well. He explained the recycling process at their sites.

Coventa is the location that the trash will still go whereas they will honor the commitment to the contract. If Coventa gets full and shuts down for the day, the trash will be taken to a Casella site in Allenstown. He noted that sometimes it would be faster to get to Allenstown compared to waiting in line at Coventa. Mrs. Harrington looked at the current contract and it states "Coventa or other licensed facility".

Mr. Marcoux was asked about recycling plastics bags. He suggested that it was better to bring them back to the grocery store because the vendor is more likely to take them back whereas it would be in bulk.

Casella at Pinkerton Academy was discussed. Mr. Marcoux talked about how well the program was working. It was noted that ABC News stated that 40% of trash is food waste which is compostable. He stated that there are about 42-44 compost places in Massachusetts with 8 being commercial. Mr. Bracken stated that it takes education to get people to compost as well. Mr. Marcoux said that Casella doesn't have anything on that right now, but suggested it only takes one community to be a successful to get the composting on the map.

Mr. Bracken mentioned his disappointment that no one from Casella had been in touch with the Committee or town since the buyout. Mr. Marcoux said that a lot of things got lost in the transition and the intention wasn't to be that abrupt. The issues with the calls were experience by a resident that reached out to Mr. Bracken and all agreed they hope it doesn't happen.

Mr. Bracken asked about the town regulations to see how it was working and if there were issues they were saying. Mr. Bracken talked about the recent issue he was contacted with regarding shared driveways. Mr. Marcoux responded that the driver is trying to be consistent with the rules and people should note that people will who abuse the system will get reported. Mr. Marcoux asked about someone that puts three barrels one week and then five the next if they would be allowed. Mr. Bracken stated no, the regulations are the regulations and they are allowed 4 15 gallon bags or 2 barrels each week, no carry over. Mr. Kowalski said that he wants people to follow the rules which will increase the recycling. If people are putting out 3-4 bags and no recycling the committee should know.

There was a question on the fuel surcharge and how it is determined. Mr. Marcoux will look into how Mr. St. Hilaire calculated it and see how many miles are done daily.

Mr. Bracken talked about the transfer station and noted that it is due to go out for RFP this year. The first date it is open is this coming Saturday and wanted to know if everything was all set. Mr. Marcoux stated that he would check and get back to us with the contact information for Steve Harms to reach on Saturdays.

Mr. Marcoux asked the committee how often they would like to see someone or hear from someone. He noted that he is through the area often as well as the other contact Eric. If the Committee had any questions they could get in touch with him.

Motion to adjourn at 9:25 pm

NEXT MEETING

May 8, 2013 at 7:30 p.m

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Harrington,
Recording Secretary