

Recycling and Waste Disposal Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2024

PRESENT; R. Davis, E. Cabral, C. Cipriano, and C. Kowalski
The meeting started at 7:00 pm.

At the meeting held December 13, 2023, there was an issue discovered after the meeting. At the time of the meeting there were only two members present at the meeting and one member wishing to participate remotely. At the meeting, the two members present voted to allow the third member to participate, when there wasn't a quorum present in the meeting room. It was agreed to reaffirm any decisions made at that meeting, at this meeting. There was also a motion to accept the recommendation of J. Lavacchia, DPW Director, for the work at the transfer station at the December meeting. At this point, the work has been completed, and J. Lavacchia spoke with both parties (the low bidder and the second low bidder), so the committee did not reaffirm the vote.

MINUTES

The committee reaffirmed the acceptance of the minutes of Nov. 08, 2023.

Minutes from Nov. 8, 2023, were read and approved with a motion by C. Kowalski and a second by R. Davis. The motion passed 4-0-0

The committee approved the minutes of Dec. 13, 2023.

Minutes from Dec. 13, 2023, were read and approved with a motion by C. Kowalski and a second by R. Davis. The motion passed 4-0-0

Old Business

Increase in User Fees at the Kent Farm Transfer Station

The Committee looked over information for a few other transfer stations and at the user fees at area transfer stations.

E. Cabral spoke with Windham and there are 17k residents and there is no curbside trash/recycling pick up. There is a full-time transfer station that is open Wednesday- Sunday for 40 hours. The town has a deal with Stateline Waste Management to pick up trash for the residents that chose to subscribe with them to bring the trash to the transfer station. It was noted that there are 1800 households in Windham that pay for the collection service and the town covers the tipping costs which go through Coventa. The current budget in 2022 for Solid Waste is at \$1.4 million. The rest of the residents would bring their trash etc. to the transfer station themselves. There is one full-time person and three part-time people working there.

There was discussion about the Kent Farm Transfer Station and the ability to be a full-time trash facility. There would need to be a site assessment to determine if it is even a feasible idea. C. Kowalski reported that the NRRA does something like a site assessment. E. Cabral stated that we have 5 years to look at the options and determine what the best solution is for the residents and the most cost-effective process. Chester is another community that has no curbside pick up and that the residents need to bring their items to the transfer station. This might be a location to look at, and the Town of Sandown also has no curbside pickup, just the transfer station.

It was suggested to see if J. Lavacchia could find out an estimated cost for an assessment. They would need to look at the impact to the land, the noise factor, and the neighbors to be concerned with. Whereas the 2024 budget is already done, the Recycling Fund is available if the assessment is something that needs to be done in 2024.

The committee felt that with the increase of 30% in the overall budget, they would need to look at some cost savings. The cost to provide the services per household has gone up to \$310 per house per year. An option is to increase some of the costs at the transfer station. The sticker to get in is currently \$25 and it has been \$25 since 2020. They looked at fees from some of the surrounding towns and felt that tires were a place that we were lower than other towns, so the committee looked at the various sizes of the tires and agreed to move forward with a cost of \$5.00 per tire (currently at \$4.00) and for passenger vehicle tires up to 20 inches only. Anything larger will not be accepted. It was noted in the last bill from the NRRA there were a few larger tires dropped off that cost a couple of hundred dollars to dispose of.

The other item in which the town was lower on, is for television/monitors. It was agreed to move forward with a \$35 flat fee instead of charging different fees for different sizes.

They will ask the Selectmen to approve the increase in these three items: Permit to \$35, Tires to \$5.00 and TV/Monitors to \$35.

The Selectmen are scheduled to meet on February 12th so the information will be passed to the liaison. It is believed a public hearing needs to be held to increase the fees so that would probably be around the end of February.

E. Cabral brought up that someone reached out at the “Meet and Greet” and was interested in helping out with HHW collection, as in helping residents that can’t get to the collection site. The committee had a concern of the person picking up the HHW items and storing them at their residence. If the person was interested the risk was on them and it wouldn’t be town related.

New Business

Resignation

It was noted that Proc Wentworth recently submitted his resignation to the Board of Selectmen stepping down from the Recycling and Waste Committee.

The members expressed their thanks for the years Proc was a member and noted that his experience and expertise will be missed.

Household Hazardous Waste- Fall 2024

The Town of Danville is hosting the fall HHW collection. They asked for a letter of commitment from the Town of Hampstead. It was also noted that Hampstead would be due to hold the event in 2025.

Trash/Recycling Toters

T. Harrington reported that the numbers are getting low and that there may need to be an order placed in 2024. She also mentioned that S. Harms suggested ordering some extra covers as well, if possible. It was agreed to wait and get an estimate as to what we have and then maybe order them in the fall.

Cardboard Container at Garage

T. Harrington suggested that E. Cabral bring up the issue that the cardboard container seems to be emptied with the trash dumpster at the garage. She is expecting to have a call with T. Belanger about cost savings measures and it was suggested to discuss this.

Member Update

There were none.

Upcoming Events

Curbside Bulk pick up – February 17th

NEXT MEETING

February 14, 2024

Motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm was made by C. Kowalski and seconded by R. Davis.

The motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Harrington, Secretary