

Recycling and Waste Disposal Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2019 (moved from Jan. 9th)

PRESENT; E. Cabral, (Chairman), R. Davis, C. Kowalski, P. Wentworth, and C. Cipriano

Guests: Tony Belanger, Pinard Waste Systems and Mr. and Mrs. Hermle

MINUTES

C. Kowalski made a motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2018 The motion was seconded by P. Wentworth The motion passed of 5-0.

With residents present and Mr. Belanger from Pinard Waste present, the order of business was changed..

NEW BUSINESS

Resident Questions:

Mr. and Mrs. Hermle of 505 Main Street were present to ask for some clarifications on recycling.

Mrs. Hermle asked what numbers were allowed to be recycled if it was 1 to 5 along with various questions.

Mr. Belanger responded that it was #1 to #7 and her other questions. He explained that effective January 1st of 2019 they have gone to the definitions used in Massachusetts. The website www.recyclesmartma.org is the best place to find out if an item is recyclable. There are items that fall under the #1 through #7 but aren't able to be recycled through a curbside collection system such as Styrofoam. In order to be able to collect it curbside, there needs to be a place for the product to go. He noted that bottle caps and tubs with the lids are able to be recycled. The tops off the tubs and caps on the bottles are the better way. An aerosol can is not allowed curbside for recycling and a sprayer needs to be taken out of the bottle. He noted that sometimes it is the physical appearance – you can squeeze an item and if it cracks, then it is not recyclable curbside. There were some questions on things such as cake bottoms that you purchase at the grocery store. The top is not recyclable, but in most cases the bottom is. Wrapping paper is not allowed curbside for recycling and neither is crepe paper or the tissue paper. He explained that the best marketable product is a clean one. Mrs. Hermle asked about paper with tape such as cards. Mr. Belanger explained that cards are allowed curbside and all paper is brought to a paper mill where they turn it to pulp. In the process of melting the paper to a pulp form, other items rise and separate and can be skimmed off. He gave staples and spiral notebooks as examples that could be put in the recycling bin, but not a three ring notebook because that is too large of a metal. He also stated that trash needs to be in bags more for hygiene and cleanliness for the cart, the area and his trucks. Items do not need to be double bagged.

Mrs. Hermle asked about kids juice boxes. The answer is if they are the coated (waxy) boxes, they can't be recycled curbside. The ones with the foil would not be recyclable either. A saran wrap container can be recycled, but not the saran wrap. Aluminum foil can also be recycled curbside and works better if rolled into a ball.

It was also noted that there is a resident in Sandown that is currently doing a fundraiser with Trek Corporation. She is collecting plastic bags, wraps and rolls. Examples are pellet bags. She currently has a drop off spot at the Sandown Town Office and Sandown Library. E. Cabral asked if we could find a place in town for a drop off for the fundraiser as well. It was also suggested that Hampstead look into it. Mrs. Harrington suggested that we wait and talk with the Sandown resident. She does a lot in Hampstead as well and has already mentioned that she is looking to do two more benches after she completes the first one.

Update from Pinard Waste Systems- Tony Belanger

E. Cabral asked how things were going and if there were any issues that were standing out that people needed to be reminded of.

Mr. Belanger reported that overall things are going well and that the recycling has been very clean. He stated that the first week of the 7,000 carts that were out there, about 1500 received stickers. The second week there was about 500 stickers and they left behind less than 75 carts. He explained that they put the sticker on to let the resident know what was done incorrectly. The first few weeks he went ahead of the trucks and stickered the issues, but the trucks were picking up, unless it was a late put out. Now they are still putting stickers on, but if it is a second notice, they are leaving the cart behind so that the resident

can reach out to them and have the issue explained, and then they will pick up the next day (unless Thursday, then it will get picked up on Monday). He stated that today was his last day of going ahead and putting stickers out. The drivers will now be the one leaving the sticker and logging the address. He explained that each town they roll out they learn new things and found out this is the better way to get the residents used to the changes. There are two trucks with two drivers. John is in the recycling truck and Kevin is in the trash truck. He also noted that the trash truck is a little faster than the recycling truck. C. Cipriano noted that with all the information that got out helped when issues starting showing up on social media. E. Cabral asked what the protocol is for calling in issue. Mr. Belanger stated that it would be to call Pinard Waste. They have a published "800" number. Contacting them is the fastest and most efficient way to handle any issues.

He talked about some of the issues with recycling. He noted that there are three plants in the area. One is run by Casella Waste in Charlestown Mass, one run by Waste Management in Billerica Mass and one in Portland Maine. There are no NH plants and that adds to the cost of the recycling. The items need to be shipped to these locations. C. Cipriano asked if there was a way to keep track of what recycled gets rejected. Mr. Belanger explained that all recycling eventually gets combined with recycling from other areas such as the Charlestown facility gets all of the Boston area recycling. They may not be as diligent about recycling as someone in Hampstead. His trucks do get checked at the site to see if the spot check passes. He believes that the "zero tolerance" program will spread. When the customer gets charged, things will change he stated. (note to minutes the other two proposals did include a potential cost for recycling along with a potential revenue) All agreed that education was very important. Mr. Belanger noted that with cardboard people can place it on top of the cart but if it lands on the ground, it stays on the ground. The driver is not getting out get items off the ground. He also stated that the route is taking less time than he budgeted for (12 hours less) which is good. He reminded the committee that there will be "ghost tonnage" at the beginning and that it is best to average the tonnage over similar time frames. Mr. Belanger was asked how many extra barrels have been purchased. He responded about 20 of each. He was then asked how many people had asked for the 35 gallon cart. He responded that he had heard from 6 to 7 people. He pointed out that they are not designed for the automated process and therefore tries to talk to each person that requests one to explain it. There is more of a chance for the small one to slip the grip of the arm and fall into the truck. When the 35 gallon cart is delivered, the town issued one would be taken back and put into inventory. He is going to take the suggestion of Rehrig Pacific and order different lids for the 35 gallon carts in case someone wants a smaller cart for trash and recycling. He ordered 100 of the 35 gallon carts and expects them to get delivered within the month. He also stated that the town needs to be ready for replacements. Pinard should be called on any damaged cart to analyze if it is a manufactures defect or something else. He met with Steve Harms and showed him how to do some of the repairs.

Mr. Belanger told the committee that he has about 12 issues left to resolve and all the excess inventory is at the Kent Farm Transfer Station. They will inventory what is left with the serial numbers, the best that they could. He also pointed out that it was better for the inventory to be left inside. He noted that the lids heat up and melt back down so people may see changes in their lids.

T. Harrington stated that she notices the recycling totes are always left with the lids open and the trash carts with the lids closed and wondered why. Mr. Belanger responded that some of that was the design of the truck. It was done so that it could be seen as having been emptied such as the way they used to turn the recycling bins upside down after collection.

Sticker Program

There was the question about extra bags on the top of the cart. Mr. Belanger explained that the automated process is the way of the future across the country. There are towns that allow the residents to purchase a sticker or a special bag to put on top of the cart for collection. The town sells the sticker or bags and therefore controls the size of the bag. E. Cabral was concerned with the mixed message it sends. First we are telling people to close their lids and then we are telling them it is okay to put a bag on top. Mr. Belanger suggested that they reach out to the Town of Tilton who has a special bag overage program. Mr. Belanger also noted that people can also contract with a special trash collector such as Stateline for those special occasions they are over. E. Cabral stated that if they went with a sticker program, someone would think they could put them all out at once, like there did with the previous vendor. They agreed to revisit the issue in July. Mr. Belanger pointed out that the normal extra bag size would be 32-45 gallons.

He also stated that he noticed that the town buildings don't all have curbside collection. He explained that he was willing to set up a schedule to pick up the Town Office and Police Station. T. Harrington will talk with the Chief about the police station and is working on some form of a schedule for the Town Office. Mr. Belanger left.

OLD BUSINESS

Shed for Transfer Station- Mr. Wentworth stated that they had an estimate to get a storage container (used) for \$3,300 to put at the transfer station. It was a 30 foot by 20 foot container similar to the ones already there. This could be used to store the carts in. It was determined that there was money in the budget for a new shed and this could be some of that purpose. The container could be placed on the ground for now and blocks placed under it later or could get done at the same time.

A motion was made to purchase the 30 foot by 20 foot storage container at a cost of \$3,300 for the purpose of storing the extra carts. The motion was seconded by R. Davis and passed unanimously 5-0. T. Harrington will get the purchase order ready.

Member Updates

Both E. Cabral and R. Davis attended the first trash barrel collection day on January 12th and there were about 250-300 people. It was noted that it was a little upsetting that they couldn't get them recycled due to the mixture of materials. The next collection day is January 19th and C. Kowalski said he would spend some time there. There is also an event at the library from 11-1 that E. Cabral and C. Cipriano will be attending. C. Kowalski is going to go down from the transfer station as well.

C. Kowalski and R. Davis attended the seminar held by the NRRA and the RPC (Rockingham Planning Commission) regarding the future of recycling. C. Kowalski noted that they needed to get the contamination out. A truckload of the same plastics would be the best. It was noted that glass will be no longer collected down the road because it is expensive to move and it breaks and gets into the cardboard and contaminates it. Cardboard is still the gold mine and is still accepted in China as well.

R. Davis was recently in Austria and gave an update on how trash and recycling were handled there. She noted that apartment buildings had one barrel that they had to use. Recycling containers are everywhere. She said that within walking distance there are mini transfer stations to take the recycling. They also had an automated process for collecting the trash.

T. Harrington presented an issue with St. Christopher's Church. They submitted a letter to the Selectmen that when the new system started they didn't receive any carts. They were told at that time that the town did not collect curbside from churches. They responded that they had been getting picked up for the last 15 years. The Selectmen asked for input from the committee. After a brief discussion they all agreed that St. Christopher's Church could reach out to Pinard Waste and go through the subscription program and then they could have curbside pickup.

Motion to adjourn at 9:39 pm was made R. Davis and seconded by C. Kowlski and passed 5-0.

NEXT MEETING

February 13, 2019

Respectfully Submitted, Tina Harrington, Secretary