

Recycling and Waste Disposal Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2017

PRESENT; E. Cabral, (Chairman), C. Kowalski, R. Nugent, R. Davis, and P. Wentworth
Guests: Brian Groshon - Casella, Dave Allen - Casella

MINUTES

The minutes from September 6, 2017 were approved 5-0 with a motion to add R. Davis as a guest since she was not sworn in yet. P. Wentworth made a motion to approve and a second by C. Kowalski.

With two guests present from Casella, the meeting began with a discussion led by them. Dave Allen opened the discussion by saying recycling contamination has become an issue across all towns they service. To date 800,000 tons has been recycled. Typically, Casella can sell 25% of their fiber recycling to China, however, he noted that over the past 30 days there has been a 40% decrease in fiber value. This is due to China implementing the “National Sword” program. China’s “National Sword” initiative is an effort to reduce pollution, and part of this is not accepting as many US recycling materials due to contamination. Casella is struggling to find buyers for their recycled materials now, and those who are buying it are paying about 40% less than what they could sell to China and other vendors earlier in the year.

Dave noted the following trends he expects to see – and although this doesn’t affect Hampstead now, it does have potential to continue and impact our next contract regardless of the vendor.

- Cost of moving recyclables will double, possibly triple, as it will be harder to find buyers for materials
- Currently a 3% recycling contamination rate has been acceptable, this is going to .5% and if it exceeds .5%, the entire recycling load will be rejected
- Plastic bags continue to get caught in conveyor belts and we need to educate our residents that they cannot put plastic bags in recycling bins
- CPIs are calculated differently now. Cost of collection + delivery to MRF + MRF sorting fees (increasing from \$100 to \$110 per ton)

Dave asked that our committee educate our residents on recycling items that can and can’t be accepted. A flyer was handed out that was titled “Unacceptable.” The committee discussed updating this to include specifics on where they can bring non-recyclable items.

New Business

R. Davis announced she has been sworn in and is now an official member of the Hampstead Recycling and Waste Committee.

The committee discussed the budget. C. Kowalski said he needs to know the number of hauls from Kent Farm per month and will get this data from T. Harrington. There was a total of 31 hauls in 2016. The Cost-of-Living adjustment (COLA) in 2016 was .84%, which is what C. Kowalski used for 2018.

A discussion was had about budgeting needs for Kent Farm improvements. P. Wentworth originally thought the wall at Kent Farm should be extended, but now thinks this is not needed if the site can be organized better to allow for a roll-off just for mattresses, getting strict about cardboard not being accepted at Kent Farm, getting a firm regulation on construction debris and having a swap shop option.

C. Kowalski budgeted \$800 for a swap shop tent, to be purchased.

Old Business

The committee discussed what was needed for the Kent Farm reorganization project: charging for mattresses, not accepting cardboard of any size, better signage, maps for visitors to receive when purchasing their Kent Farm sticker and when they arrive at the site, directions on how to load vehicles based on the layout of the site (to include with the sticker pick up) and finding a shelter for the temporary swap shop.

Motion to adjourn at 9:02 pm was made by P. Wentworth and seconded by R. Davis and passed 5-0.

NEXT MEETING

November 8, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

To Discuss:

- 2018 Budget
- Swap Shop structure options
- Flyer for residents outlining unacceptable items, additional outreach ideas

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Cabral,
Chairman