

Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2010

The meeting started at 6:30PM

Those present: Sue Smith, Justin Leavitt, Breane Vachon, Lew Henry, Israel Willard, Andrew Stockwell, Barbara Swanson, Don Guarino and Frank Bosiak.

1. The minutes for the May 11, 2010 meeting were approved.
2. The first article (written by Sue Smith) has been submitted to a number of papers for publication. To date, it has been printed in The Sun (June 2), The Laconia Daily Sun (June 4) and the Citizen (date unknown). Also contacted were The Baysider and The Weirs Times, but there has been no reply. It was suggested that The Concord Monitor be contacted as well as Deb Cornett to have it posted on the town web site.
3. The committee's first survey was conducted May 23rd. The results were mostly positive, but there were a few negatives noted as well.

On the positive side:

- The town's recycling has improved over the last two months. Recycling is up and the amount of trash to Wheelabrator is down significantly.
- Having the committee at the facility showed the Town's commitment to recycling and people were glad to see it.
- On the negative side:
- Some folks said they don't recycle because it was too difficult or took too much time, citing the lack of parking and the awkward flow of the bins. Discussion of this led to a possible change in the "pattern flow" at the facility which could improve traffic, add 8 additional parking spaces and improve things for pedestrians as well. Justin will check the proposed pattern and measure to see how many spaces can be gained and what the cost would be.
- There is still approximately 20% of the town to reach regarding recycling – those that do some recycling could do more and those that do not recycle could do some.
- Some complaints were voiced that people would like to have more help. The facility is a self-help facility, but there is a policy to ask ALL elderly and handicapped residents if they would like some help. Some welcome it and some do not want/need assistance.

Suggestions to improve to increase recycling:

- Explain the "no caps" policy. People think it means NO caps allowed. Justin explained that it means to remove the caps or to leave them on loosely, so that the containers can be compacted without the caps clogging up the compactor. The facility has a bucket for loose caps, but folks still question what to do. It was suggested that this be an educational opportunity for the next article.
- Lower the trays as they are too high for some people, especially the older population. There are steps, but they're purposefully not too high, so there is less likelihood of someone falling. It was suggested too that they be painted a bright color – they are currently painted red, but it was noted that they could use a new coat.
- For those that do not like to wait, it was suggested to write in an article explaining that there are "no lines" during (Wednesday was mentioned, but days and times to be furnished by Justin).
- The glass recycle area is too far away for some, so it was suggested to consider improvements, such as a barrel drop/collar to reduce the chances of broken glass hurting someone.

Additional notes:

- Justin suggested that we take a look at the facility in Pittsfield/Barnstead (on Route 107). Their facility is "ideal". They have two lanes and no congestion.
- Sue noted that Lydia Perry said she would like to volunteer to help the Recycling Committee.
- The town's population increases in the summer from approximately 3000 to 9000, making recycling even more important. Summer visitors have passes to the facility, but not all recycle or know to recycle.

- It was suggested to do another survey, perhaps on a Wednesday and a Saturday to include/reach new residents. Lew and Israel volunteered to work on a Wednesday (date and times to be determined by them and presented to the committee). No commitment was made for a Saturday, but for Sunday, July 11th (see below).
- It was suggested to have an Open House/Tour of the facility from 10-12 on July 11th. Justin says they do the baling at 10, so we could show people what happens to the things that get recycled. During the facilities hours (12-5) the Committee members could do another car count survey and help people recycle (remove caps, ask if they need help, explain some of the benefits of recycling, etc.) *NOTE: We did not get commitments for time slots, so we need volunteers for the following: 12-1, 1-2, 2-3, 3-4 and 4-5 (overlapping times are welcome).

Fourth of July presence:

- The parade is Saturday, July 3rd at 10. We will have the recycle-mobile (Justin to bring), a table (Don will get one from the town), a canopy (Andrew to provide), handouts (500 each) on recycling and also to announce the hazardous waste day – held in Belmont on the last Saturday in July (Breane to work on samples based on those from the conference), sample bins for taking orders and order forms (Don will get from Justin and bring them down in his truck) and signs for the barrels (two each, total 24) stating “Break the Cycle...Recycle” (Sue to create these and Justin will have them laminated). Barbara and Frank to man the booth 9-11. Don and Andrew will take over after the parade (11-12).
- The fireworks are slated for around 9PM. The recycle-mobile will be there and it was suggested that perhaps the Scouts could give out the handouts and encourage recycling. Israel has covers for the barrels with slots for recycling.

NRRA Conference update:

- Those in attendance were Andrew, Israel, Lori and Justin.
- Justin received an award (The Sammy Izzo Award). It was suggested that this be in an article (for immediate publication)
- In the next couple of weeks, the NRRA is sending a SWAT team (5-6 people) to our facility to see what we do and how we do it. They will make recommendations on what they observe.
- There is a trend toward Single Stream recycling, as it seems to be easier for folks. There is less revenue generated by recyclables, but there is also less going in the trash compactor to send to Wheelabrator. There was no mention of contamination, but that is a consideration.
- The Trash Business is getting expensive no matter what route you take.
- Need to consider what is the best option for the town: Single Stream, Dual Stream, Mandatory Recycling, Pay As You Go, Curbside etc.

Additional Notes:

- It was mentioned to include the glass in the recyclables, by using a formula to figure the rate as mentioned at the conference put on by NRRA.
- Justin handed out an Activity Report with 2009 costs and revenues for the facility, however the meeting ended prior to any discussion of this informative listing.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, July 13th at 6:30PM on the top floor of the Academy Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. Swanson

Recording clerk