

Recycling Committee Meeting Notes

December 14, 2010

The meeting started at 6:30 PM

Those present: Committee members Andrew Stockwell, Justin Leavitt, Don Guarino, Lori Baldwin, Johnna McKenna, Frank Bosiak, Lew Henry, Breane Vachon and Barbara Swanson. Also present was Mike Durfor of the NRRA.

1. Mike handed out an analysis of Gilmanton's current Recycling Program compared with a Single Stream approach. (see attached).

It was mentioned that going to Single Stream Recycling could result in revenue for the town or it could result in a cost to the town. There has been very little revenue paid for Single Stream Recycling in the past two years, especially when you add the cost of hauling the materials to a facility. For instance, a town in Vermont hauls its Single Stream materials all the way to Boston. Since the Concord Co-op facility is not built yet, Gilmanton might have to haul it's Single Stream materials to a facility in Maine or Massachusetts.

Regarding Single Stream Recycling, Concord is currently offering to pay \$25.00/ton, but they have a clause that if their costs go up they can charge the town, up to \$50.00/ton. The town could enter into a contract with a facility, but the town would need to know that no matter what the market were doing, the town would not be charged more. There is no guarantee that the town will make money off the recyclables that are sent to the Single Stream facility. If the market is down, the town could be charged to get rid of their recyclables. It was advised that if the town enters into a contract, that there is an opt out clause and that the town be diligent about meeting any deadline to avoid being locked into the contract for 15 years.

Based on the size of Gilmanton and the way that it's current recycling program is running, Mike recommended that the town keep its course and try to increase its percentage of recycling. He referenced education as a key component to getting residents on board and to encourage them to recycle.

Lori asked about Pay as You Throw programs. Mike said they can have more impact to the recycling program than Single Stream Recycling, but when you add in a mandatory segment the results are even more impressive (eventually). Mandatory Recycling can be difficult to "police", but it is an educational process and has proven to become a lifelong commitment that is passed to the next generation. It was suggested that the town could consider Mandatory Recycling and provide a number of bags (clear) to each resident (for example 52 bags/year) and once a resident used up their allotment, they could purchase additional bags. The issues to consider are how to provide the bags (yearly?) and where (Town Hall, Recycling Facility?). A question arose: "What do you do when a resident puts a clear bag of recyclables in the trash?" No one wants to "police" the facility, so it was suggested that a letter be sent from the Board of Selectmen to the offender saying something to the effect that "It was probably a mistake, but you were seen putting recyclable materials into the trash bin. We don't mean to point this out to you (or...embarrass you), but we need your help to make this program work."

The bottom line is to make it easy and not a hardship for anyone. It should be a team effort and the team is the town residents, the Recycling Committee and the Board of Selectmen. And education needs to be everywhere including articles in the paper, school brochures and signs at the Recycling Facility and the Town Hall letting the residents know things like what can be recycled, what the town has saved in a given year and even a "Thank You!" to the residents for recycling.

It was brought up that the committee should do up an article for the town's Annual Report to let the town know of progress made by the committee, the findings that the committee has discovered (for instance, the only real control we have on our town's waste stream cost is to recycle), the school's efforts and the impact of the increase

in recycling for 2010. It was also recommended to do a survey on the town link to get a feel for the resident's position on recycling and the different alternatives. We could put a notice in the paper and on a white board at the Recycling Facility to let residents know that it is there and we would like to hear from them. Johnna offered to make a list of questions.

Additionally, Mike recommended that the committee approach the residents in a meeting separate from the Annual Meeting. A summer meeting was suggested with testimony from the children involved in the recycling at the school.

2. Other business:

A question regarding the policy of “caps on or caps off” plastic bottles came up. The new employee at the Recycling Facility asked to have all of the caps removed, even though the bottles were all crushed. Justin said he would handle the matter.

Additional questions:

Pellet bags are marked (#3 plastic) as being recyclable, are they? The answer is no. They are not a “food quality” plastic, so they are not accepted.

Can shaving cream aerosol cans be recycled? Yes.

Can books be recycled? Justin is working on a solution.

Terra-cycling is being done at the school. Can it be done at the Recycling Facility? At the moment it is just not feasible.

Andrew mentioned that at the last meeting, Sarah Nichols (RCAP) offered to help Gilmanton with a Full Cost Analysis. Andrew called Tim to give him a “heads up” that Sarah would be in touch and why. She contacted Tim via email and left messages on his answering machine, but to date has not heard from him, so she could not do the analysis. Don said he would check with Tim to see what the issues may be. Andrew will send Tim an email reminder.

Justin updated the committee with the news that we now have a container for the glass and it is now being hauled to Hopkinton at a cost of \$20.00/ton plus \$250.00 to haul, for an average of \$448 to \$500 each time it is hauled out. A cost is not good news, but at least it is going to be recycled and not put into the waste stream or hauled to an incinerator. It was asked why the crushed glass was not used by the town, in particular for the recent Loon Pond project and the new Safety Facility. Don said for the Loon Pond project, it was not brought up for consideration. It was a mistake/error. It was not used for the new fire station because it was thought that there wouldn't be enough for the project.

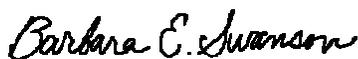
Justin let the committee know that the new tipping fee is now \$66.80/ton, up from \$62.10.

It was suggested that we photograph Justin with bales of recycled materials to show residents that recycling pays (suggested title: Recycling Pays...Santa Delivers). Justin will work on making assorted bales for the photograph, but would like others in the photo. Lori offered to take the photo to send to the papers.

3. The minutes for the Nov. 9th, 2010 meeting were approved.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 11th at 6:30PM in the Academy Building (top floor).

Respectfully submitted,



Recording clerk