

Recycling and Waste Disposal Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2014

PRESENT: Chris Kowalski, Ellen Cabral, and Bob Nugent (Pat Bracken, Chairman was absent)

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm.

Guests: David Marcoux, Casella, Proctor Wentworth, Budget Committee.

MINUTES

The minutes from May 14th were reviewed.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of May 14th as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

NRRA- Central School

Caitlyn Meany is no longer with the NRRA and someone new has been hired, or is in the process. Both Mr. Kowalski and Ms. Cabral are okay with moving forward with the assessment at the Central School for the fall and having the ½ day with three classes. Mr. Nugent said that at the NRRA conference he poked his head a few times to see how the classes were going in the school club on the Trash on Your lawn. He said once he stayed and watched it for awhile, he was impressed. He did note that only about ½ the kids stayed for the whole session. He also noted that pyramid that is out now shows that recycling is at the bottom (last resort). The other preferable options are reuse, repurpose or rededicate. Mr. Nugent also suggested that it would be a good thing to take about 4 kids next year to the conference although he understands it is a difficult time of year (end of school year) to be out. When Mr. Nugent spoke with Bonnie at the NRRA she said that the 5ht/6th graders are the best ones to work with. Ms. Cabral will get conform the quote on the ½ day cost. Mr. Bracken will talk with the assistant principal.

New Business

Bestway/Casella

Mr. Marcoux spoke to the Committee regarding the account with Casella and the Town of Hampstead.

He mentioned that they participated in the video being produced by Pinkerton Academy and wondered what the status of it was. They had requested to review it before it goes anywhere and that they provided content information. Ms. Cabral offered to check into the status of the project. He asked the committee members for any concerns or challenges they had. Mr. Nugent noted that he recently had an issue as a private contract with Casella regarding being on call and a regular pickup. Mrs. Harrington noted that she recently called the call center and it took a little more than 10 minutes to get connected, but once she was, the contact was handled the problem quickly and was off the phone in 3 minutes, but that 10 minutes is to long for a resident to be on hold.

Mr. Nugent also mentioned that he recently saw the recycling truck looking at white bags that were recycling and then putting them into the trash. Mr. Marcoux explained that they shake them to see if they are recycling or trash. He also noted that they were some changes in the routes while they review the mileage they do and that something may have been missed.

Mr. Marcoux was asked how the recycling worked. He explained that all recycling is taken from curbside to the Allentown where the sorting process starts. They try to eliminate any contamination there. It then will move to the Charlestown Massachusetts location where it is sorted more and where they get rid of any bags. Mr. Kowalski asked if the trip there was part of the gas cost. Mr. Marcoux responded that it is all built into the cost of the contract. Casella runs the transfer station and then they hire a subcontractor to haul the recycling in a tractor trailer unit to Charlestown (he noted they move them at night when no traffic on road)

Mr. Nugent asked about the future and when will it be time to look at automated pickup. Mr. Marcoux responded that it is up to what the town wants. There are challenges with the program such as people need to be good on the placement of the bins, shoveling out the area and keeping parked cars away from the pickup spot. There is also the issue on paying for the toters (about \$65-\$72 per cart). It does speed up the collection process sometimes as much as 30% but if the toter is not in the right spot, the driver would need to get out and move it. There is also more wear and tear on the equipment (i.e. the arm). Mr. Marcoux said that in looking at contracts, the longer the contract the less costly it would be (when using the carts). When they look into the cost to pick up a town they look at how many stops in a mile. Comparing Hampstead to a town like Amesbury, there would be fewer stops per mile in Hampstead. He noted that towns look for different things when they negotiate such as it is cleaner with the carts, it can increase recycling and in some cases it gets the trucks out of the area quicker. He noted the Archie St. Hilaire is very good on the placement on bins.

Mr. Kowalski asked about the trash. Mr. Marcoux said that currently the trash goes to Coventa where Casella has a contract. Their contract with Coventa is based on the # of tons at a certain cost per ton; if the volume is not met the increase goes up in increments. Their current contract with Coventa expires 12/31/14 but they have already renegotiated the new contract with new rates for tipping, which have gone down. He stated that with Casella there are three choices they own one facility and contract with two. Their own landfill (Bethlehem), the incinerator (Coventa), or landfill to transfer (Allenstown). He noted that currently Coventa was the better choice for us because of its proximity. Mr. Marcoux noted that he wasn't sure what Hampstead was looking for and asked the committee if they were looking for an extension or to go out to RFP. Mr. Kowalski stated that there has been discussion yet and they would want Chairman Bracken present for any discussion. Currently all the contracts end 12/31/2014. Mr. Marcoux said that if the town is going the route of an RFP, they have samples of proposals that have been used. If an extension is the way they are looking, they can move forward and move forward and if wanted, they could look at other locations for tipping. Mr. Kowalski asked if there would be a cost reduction by going out to RFP. Mr. Marcoux stated that it would be difficult to tell especially where there has been more growth since the original contract. He asked the committee members what their expectations were. He asked if they were thinking of an automated process or 1 or 2 streams for collections of recycling. Mr. Kowalski said that there is no motivation from the town to move that direction but thought there was from the haulers to move that direction whereas it is faster and easier for them. Mr. Nugent said that he sees no demand now but that it will be coming.

NRRA Conference

Solid Waste Operator Licenses

Mr. Kowalski stated that he heard there were new levels for the operators at the transfer station. He stated that they emphasized that if an application is submitted late, then the person starts at the bottom rung- no exceptions. He passed the handouts to Mrs. Harrington who will pass onto the workers at the transfer station.

Composting

There is a big push towards composting which amounts for about 30% of the weight. There is no good solution on how to get it out and also no place for it to go. He did note that if a compost pile is done correctly, it should take about 45 days. Chester has a compost area at their transfer station that Mr. Nugent would like to go visit to see how it is doing. There is a company called Green Mountain Technologies that is a compost company. Mr. Kowalski also said that one of the classes he sat in on was How to motivate people to compost. He reported that the best way was to communicate with people and talk about it such as if someone brings something to the transfer station, it could be suggested what they could do with the item to recycle it.

P. Wentworth

Mr. Wentworth mentioned that he was concerned with roll-offs being left at the transfer station and getting wet, which increases the weight. He thinks they should be hauled more frequently such as two days from the collection day. He said that there shouldn't be rolls off there if they are full for 2-3 weeks. It was suggested that maybe a tarp over the container might help. It was noted that the recycling container at the town garage should be added to the next contract so it is not a separate cost.

Landfill vs Incinerator

The Committee discussed which way was better and all agreed that whichever was the more environmentally friendly way. Mr. Kowalski noted that there has been research on the potential resource of landfills down the road because the carbon helps the soil to create deeper roots. Mr. Nugent noted that landfills may leach out into water streams. The committee agreed they would need to see the pros and cons on everything.

The committee reviewed the current statistics on the trash and recycling numbers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm

NEXT MEETING

July 9, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda: NRRA/Education update

Casella to be present

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Harrington,
Recording Secretary