

Solid Waste Removal and Recycle Committee Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2019

Members present: Ron Morales, Dan Guilmette, Rob Caron and Bud Staples

Attendees: Pete Lachapelle, Waste Management (WM)

Meeting called to order @ 4:02 PM by Chair Ron Morales

Ron reminded all members to sign their appointment commitments at the Town office.

We then proceeded with the election of officers for 2019. Dan motioned to keep the same slate. Rob seconded the motion and all were in favor. The officers for 2019 are: Ron as Chair, Dan as Vice Chair and Bud as Recording Secretary.

Pete reviewed the year end reports with the Committee. Total tonnage was 1005.6 tons, an increase of 18 tons over 2017. The recycled tonnage was 32.2% of the total, down slightly from the 2017 rate of 32.4% and as Pete said this was still an excellent result. He also noted that WM is seeing small signs of improvement in the current recycling market as noted by the \$5 improvement in the value of our recyclables in the December figures.

Pete then distributed Waste Management's simplified brochure "Let's get back to the basics of recycling." and a two page handout defining the problem with recycling today which centers around contamination, and solutions to improve the quality of materials that are able to be recycled. Ron said he would have these added to the Town's website and to the Community Forum. Rob suggested adding "rinsed" to the 1st rule of recycling in the brochure so that it would be read as "Recycle all empty and rinsed plastic bottles, cans, paper and cardboard." Pete agreed this would improve the stated rule.

This is the last year of our current 5 year contract period with WM. There remains a one year option and a two year option to consider. Pete will have a new 5 year proposal for us at the next meeting. A soft copy will be sent to members of the Committee to review before the meeting. The next contract period would begin January 2020.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on April 17th at 4:00 PM at the Pound School.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

William (Bud) Staples

Recording Secretary