

Solid Waste Removal and Recycle Committee Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2020

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

Attendees: Pete Lachapelle, Waste Management (WM)

Meeting called to order @ 4:00 PM by Chair Ron Morales

We had some catching up to do since our first meeting of the year in January was informational only due to lack of a quorum and the April meeting was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The first order of business was to elect officers for the current year. Dan motioned to keep the same slate as the prior year. Amy seconded and All voted in favor. Officers are Ron Morales, Chairman; Dan Guilmette, Vice Chairman and Bud Staples, Recording Secretary.

Ron then motioned to make the Minutes of the August 21, 2019 and Sept 25, 2019 Non-Public sessions to become Public since negotiations for a new contract were completed with Waste Management. Amy seconded the motion and All were in favor. The Non-Public Minutes of both Meetings are attached.

The Committee then reviewed the solid waste and recycling data for the first six months, noting that the Town's recycled waste was holding steady at 31% of our total solid waste and recycling tonnage. Pete (WM) noted that our overall tonnage for the first 6 months had increased (almost 10%) most likely due to residents working and staying home due to Covid-19 restrictions and that this had an effect on both solid waste and recycled waste being generated.

The good news Pete mentioned was that there has been an increase in demand for cardboard, much due to home delivery instead of personal shopping, and as a result the town has received some credits during May and June for recycled materials. This was welcomed news although not known if this is trending or if a temporary phenomenon.

Pete also noted that the contamination rate of recycled product has been steadily watched as WM unloads recycled waste and that East Kingston has not been cited for any high or unusual contamination levels.

The May Bulk pickup was modified to allow residents 2 articles only as no stickers were sold due to Covid-19. It was reported that approx. 85% of the pickup locations followed the 2 piece rule. A few residents had more than 2 pieces, but WM followed the direction of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) and collected only 2 pieces from these sites. Total tonnage collected was 12.63 tons. The Committee reviewed options for the upcoming Bulk pickup on Sept 21st and the White Goods/eWaste pickup on Oct 19th. Recommendations will be made to the BOS and to the Town Clerk to allow stickers to be sold by Committee members before each event. Hopefully this will accommodate the needs of residents for discarding their items. Once reviewed by the Town Clerk and approved by the BOS, it was recommended that communication be made to residents through an email letter, Carriage Town News, the Town's website and/or the signage in front of the fire station.

The next regular Committee meeting is scheduled for Oct 14th at 4:00 PM at the Pound School.

Bud motioned to Adjourn, Amy seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

William (Bud) Staples

Recording Secretary