

Solid Waste Removal and Recycle Committee Meeting Minutes – July 21, 2021

Members present: Ron Morales, Dan Guilmette, Rob Caron and Bud Staples. Attendees: Pete Lachapelle, Waste Management (WM), Grace Ruelle, Town of East Kingston Administrator

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

First order of business was a discussion regarding missed MSW pickups. With the observance of a holiday on a Monday that was a scheduled date for WM to pick up MSW, some residents missed the scheduled pickup. It was also reported that a couple of trash containers were missed that were by the side of the road. Grace mentioned that she vetted phone calls to make certain containers were by the side of the road on time and were placed in the right location. Still a couple were missed. WM keeps track by GPS of road coverage to make sure all roads are serviced. It was also noted and confirmed by Pete that WM missed Cornerstone during the Bulk pickup. In these cases it could have simply been human error and not intentional missed pickups. Pete said he would review this with operations.

Grace brought up another issue regarding response time delays in getting replacement containers. Replacements are necessary when wheels break, cracks occur on the bottom of containers or lids break off. Pete will check to see if there is anything that can be done to soften the landing after a container is emptied so that wheels and bottoms don't hit the ground hard. It was mentioned that some containers are 15 years old and that may be contributing to breakage. Grace asked if a few containers could be stored at the town offices so that they are readily available for pickup when needed. Pete will look into this as well.

A review of Q2 results showed a slight increase in total tonnage over Q1, with recycled tonnage averaging 29% for the quarter and holding at 31% for the first half year. The Bulk Waste pickup yielded 10.6 tons of discarded items, a reduction of 8 tons compared to the first Bulk pickup in 2020. The committee volunteered to assist in providing bulk waste stickers to residents this past spring due to the COVID-19 restrictions and workload reported by the town clerk's office. Discussion took place regarding the upcoming Bulk Waste and eWaste/White Goods pickups scheduled this fall and Dan volunteered to discuss future sticker distribution with the town clerk.

Pete mentioned that they (WM) are noticing more non-recyclable items being added to recycle containers and that this is being seen by the driver through use of a camera system mounted on the truck. He invited any representative of the committee to ride on one of the recycle truck routes to assist in auditing results and to see what is involved. Bud volunteered to do this sometime in August.

Pete had good news for our meeting noting that the blended value of recycled material has been steadily increasing monthly and for the month of July the blended value was \$101.57/ton. This reduced the cost of July's recycled tonnage to \$49.96/ton compared to the normal MSW rate of \$81.13/ton.

Ron and Grace reviewed the Town's annual budget for WM services and noted that 47% of the budget was spent during the first half year. Significant savings in recycle tonnage was the main reason given.

The Foss Wasson Field dumpster was brought up as being little used. We recommended a biweekly pickup and maybe a monthly pickup during the seasons the field is utilized. If minimal use continues, going to a carry in-carry out enforcement with signage and Rec committee enforcement was suggested.

The next regular Committee meeting is scheduled for Oct 20th at 4:00 PM at the Pound School. Ron motioned to adjourn and Dan seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:52 PM.

William (Bud) Staples, Recording Secretary