

Solid Waste Removal and Recycle Committee Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2021

Members present: Ron Morales, Dan Guilmette, Rob Caron and Bud Staples. Attendees: Pete Lachapelle, Waste Management (WM)

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

A review of YTD results through September showed, recycled tonnage averaging 31.15% of total waste tonnage. The September blended value of recyclables increased to \$125.19, reducing the cost per ton to \$26.34 for the Town. Total solid waste tonnage YTD was 8.6 tons less than last year @ 533.5 tons. The September Bulk Waste pickup yielded 6.3 tons of discarded items. There were 319 stickers issued and \$1,580 collected. Country Hills and Cornerstone reported that WM missed their roads, but bulk items were collected within a day or two following calls from these neighborhoods. The Committee discussed with WM ways to correct these misses in the future. The October White Goods/e-Waste pickup collection had 82 stickers sold with revenue of \$1,460. The only missed item reported during this collection was that of the SWR & RC Chairman!

Pete mentioned that the blended value of recycled material has been steadily increasing each month and this should continue. High demand for plastics #'s 1, 2 and 5 have helped this cause.

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) asked for a review of additional cart requests by residents and whether the Committee felt the need to collect additional fees for adding carts. Pete supplied a report that showed 17 recycle carts and 5 solid waste carts issued since the beginning of the year. Denying or charging for recycle carts could force residents to add recyclable items to their solid waste bins, at an increased cost to the Town. The cost of these carts to the town is \$5.30/month and the cost of solid waste carts is \$7.07/month. The Committee was unanimous in recommending against collection of fees for needed additional carts.

Ron reviewed the Town's annual budget and noted that we were in good shape with YTD expenses compared to budget. Caution was noted that fuel price increases the second half of the year are substantially higher and that these will most likely increase again in January. These higher costs have been offset by higher value credits from recycled tonnage. This should continue going forward.

Committee meetings were planned for 2022 as follows: January 19th, April 20th, July 20th, and October 19th. All meetings to be held at Pound School at 4:00 PM.

A brief discussion took place regarding content for the 2022 "Trash and Recycling Collection Services" Flyer. This was tabled to the January meeting.

A discussion took place regarding stipends for committee members. Dan mentioned that he volunteers his time at his leisure and felt a stipend could set unwanted commitment expectations. Bud felt the same way. Discussion continued regarding the responsibilities of the Chairman of the Committee which include the recommendation of town budgets, reviewing and approving monthly WM bills for accuracy, planning meetings and activities, reporting to the BOS, etc. Bud motioned to recommend a stipend for the Chairman only. Rob seconded and All were in favor. The amount of the stipend would be determined by the BOS.

The next regular Committee meeting is scheduled for January 19th at 4:00 PM at the Pound School. Dan motioned to adjourn and Ron seconded. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:47 PM.

William (Bud) Staples, Recording Secretary