

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

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

Attendees: Pete Lachapelle, Waste Management (WM)

Meeting called to order @ 4:08 PM by Chair Ron Morales

The first order of business was to nominate and vote on Committee officers. Dan motioned to keep the same slate as 2020 and Rob quickly seconded. After a brief discussion the vote was unanimous in favor of Ron Morales, Chair; Dan Guilmette, Vice Chair; Bud Staples, Recording Secretary; and Rob Caron, Member at Large.

Members briefly reviewed the 4th quarter and annual data for 2020. Recycled tonnage totaled 312.3 tons or 30.2% of the total solid waste and recycled tonnage of 1033.3 tons for the year. This was 1% lower than the 2019 recycling percentage. The slight change was due to the increase in overall tonnage due to residents working or staying home more often due to the pandemic. There was also a noticeable increase in the blended value of recyclables during the 4th quarter that reduced the overall cost of tonnage. During the year the monthly processing fee was highest in March at \$153.28/ton vs. the lowest monthly processing fee in December at \$115.81/ton. We believe the recyclables credit will continue to improve during 2021. Pete (WM) also mentioned that due to lower fuel costs, the fuel surcharge of \$11.71/month for the previous 6 months will be credited back at \$46.80/month for the next 6 months. This was welcomed and unexpected by the Committee.

The Committee discussed the status of acquiring additional labels for the Bulk and White Goods/eWaste pickups as the previous supplier is no longer available. Rob will be sending information and pictures of new labels to Committee members when he receives them for review before purchasing. Dan motioned that the sticker fee be increased from \$15 to \$20 and Rob seconded the motion. Costs for pickup and recycling have increased substantially just about everywhere and this fee partially offsets the Bulk Pickup cost by approx. 25% and the \$41.50 cost for each white goods item and \$26.50 cost for each e/Waste item collected. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the increase. Bud was asked to submit a letter to the BOS to recommend the increase at their next meeting so that the amount could be included in the Waste Management Trash and Recycling Collection Services flyer that will be sent to all resident addresses in April.

Pete (WM) said we would need to finalize the Waste Management Trash and Recycling Collection Services flyer for East Kingston no later than March 19th. Bud suggested adding the WM phone number and making the White Goods/eWaste statement **bold** and in **red** print to emphasize that residents would need to call WM with their address, sticker numbers and items to be collected. Note: This service is collected by a third party that receives a list from WM of those residents that have called with the required information.

Waste Management's large and heavy trucks do not have access to the restricted private road at Cricket Hill and therefore cannot pick up Bulk Goods there. Another concern is at Maplevale Condominiums where the short side streets do not accommodate the larger vehicles for this pickup and residents wanting to use this service must take their stickered bulk items to the end of their spur for pickup.

Ron presented several billing issues to Pete (WM) regarding quantity of 1 used for various charges that represented multiple pickups. Pete was asked to have billing done by ticket number for each occurrence. Pete said he would request this improvement through WM's billing department. Bud requested a formula change on the Monthly Recycling and Solid Waste Report to calculate the cumulative % Recycled by dividing the cumulative Recycled Tonnage by the cumulative Solid Waste and Recycling Tonnage instead of averaging the monthly % Recycled Tonnage, where monthly tonnage amounts vary and the average by month calculation is not an accurate indication of the overall % recycled.

The 6 yard dumpster at the Town Offices is not fully used and occasionally materials are dumped by unknown sources that should be recycled or held for bulk pickup. Recent dumping of corrugated cardboard, metal and pallets was the example given. Rob motioned to reduce the size of the dumpster to the 2 yard size with locks and to put disposal on a per call basis rather than weekly as little trash is generated by the Town offices and the smaller size would suffice. Dan seconded the motion and all voted in favor. This will save the town a minimum of \$56 per month in pickup fees. Pete (WM) confirmed the change would take place within a few weeks.

The Committee graciously accepted Amy MacDonald's resignation and discussed whether or not a replacement should be added to the Committee. Bud questioned if a quorum would be represented by a minimum of 2 of the 4 members at a meeting or if 3 of 4 would be required. The answer was not immediately known. Ron pointed out that in the past a member of the BOS was assigned to each Town Committee and if that is still the case, that BOS member would or could be the 5th person in a tiebreaker vote if needed. Ron will ask the BOS if there is a member of the BOS assigned to our Committee. Deciding to add another member was deferred to our next meeting in April once we have clarification to these questions.

The next regular Committee meeting is scheduled for April 21st at 4:00 PM at the Pound School.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15PM.

William (Bud) Staples

Recording Secretary