

Solid Waste Removal and Recycle Committee Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2018

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

Attendees: Pete Lachapelle, Waste Management (WM)

Meeting called to order @ 5:00 PM by Chair Ron Morales

The Committee reviewed the YTD recycling and solid waste tonnage activity. The recycled tonnage remains a steady 32% of our total waste tonnage.

Pete provided an update to the global market for recycled materials, providing literature that will be added to the town's website. As mentioned in the January minutes, China has significantly limited imports of recycled materials, both in type and in contamination. As a result, WM and other waste collectors have been seeking additional markets and are requesting that recycled containers be empty and dry with no liquid or food residue permitted and to not bag recyclables. The plastic bags gum up the sorting machines.

Some local changes now in effect for East Kingston residents include the acceptance of only #1, 2 and 5 plastics. Other plastics, #3, 4, 7 are no longer permitted as are polystyrene foam plastics #6 that are not acceptable and need to be placed in trash containers. Also, not acceptable are paper napkins, plate, cups and tissues, and items consisting of hangers, tires, scrap metal, wood, hoses, electronics, small appliances and construction debris. Waste Management has developed an educational and outreach program, Recycle Often, Recycle Right® website for tips and tools to help reduce and eliminate contamination.

Since China has mandated lower contamination limits to 0.5% and is enforcing material bans, it is a significant challenge to find new markets for recycled waste as much smaller countries do not have the capacity for receiving this waste. Some domestic manufacturers are able to handle specific recyclables that are used in their manufacturing process, but this is quite limited. As a result, the few countries that have been willing to pay for recycled waste has been significantly reduced and or eliminated.

WM expects continued volatility in these markets and will adapt to changes as markets change.

The 2018/2019 (covering May 2017 through April 2019) Trash and Recycling Collection Services brochure will be mailed to residence addresses during the last week of April. Reminder: The next Bulk Waste pick up date will be on Monday May 22nd.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on July 18th at 5:00 PM at the Pound School.

Our meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.

William (Bud) Staples

Recording Secretary