

Recycling Committee Minutes

September 19, 2023

Meeting convened at 3:00 p.m.

Attending: Dave Poklemba, Rachel Bartlett, Hailey Mackey, Jean Prior, and Albert Diemand of Elm City Composting

Rachel reported that the old metal container had been moved within the transfer station and the aluminum container has been moved to its place. She then clarified that the metals container belongs to Scrap-It, the paper and compactor containers belong to the Town, the commingle container is rented, and the aluminum container is owned by Buffum.

Hailey reported on her conversation with Mike Hartness of Westmoreland who works at the Keene Recycling Center. He offered the following suggestions for the committee going forward:

- Traffic – develop a circular driving pattern at the center so that recyclables, commingles, and paper are dropped off first and that compactor materials are last
- Signage – change the name of the center from Transfer Station to Recycling and Composting Center with proper signage to that effect
- What to take for recycling – take **clean** containers only; glass without covers or rings, #1 and #2 plastics only. This will need to be monitored in the beginning.

Albert proceeded to explain the composting services his company provides. He made it very clear that his service works very well with a PAYT process. His company would provide collection, composting, and transport of materials, and would monitor the grounds with personnel for the first month. Compost bins would be delivered at the opening of both days the facility is open, and removed at the end of the same day. Albert surmised that composting services would remove about 25% of the material that is presently going into the compactor.

The concept of a continuously running video loop demonstrating the practice of recycling was also mentioned. Volunteers would be needed in the beginning to instruct/assist townspeople in the recycling practice.

Possible adaptations to the present paper container to improve safety were discussed.

Subsequent discussion involved the next step of presentation to the townspeople. Among the thoughts:

- Compare trash costs between now and 20 years ago.
- Stress the importance of reducing landfill usage.
- Hailey will connect with a science teacher at the school to discuss a recycling theme for the next science fair.

The committee will meet again on October 24 to develop a presentation to be made to the Selectmen for consideration of converting to a Pay As You Throw (PAYT) rubbish plan for the town at their November 7 meeting at 1:00 p.m..

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Rachel Bartlett