

Recycling Committee

Minutes of February 6 2023 meeting

Present: Richard Meyer, Dave Poklemba, and Rachel Bartlett

Meeting convened at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes of January 9 2023 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Discussion of expectations of the committee members. Details from Recycling Advisory Board report of 12-17-20, Westmoreland Recycling and Solid Waste Committee Duties list of 5-6-21, and minutes from BOS meeting 3-17-22 were reviewed. The committee determined it would be a good idea to meet with the Board to discuss these expectations. A request was made with Jodi following the meeting for the committee to be placed on the BOS meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2023, to discuss these expectations in addition to the committee findings to date.

Rachel has been in contact with Albert Diemand of Elm City Composting to determine if composting of food waste is an option. He is familiar with the site and feels it would be possible to run a remote food waste operation there. It could be for individual households (minimum of 50 participating households) or paid monthly by the Town. Containers would be emptied at the end of each day of operation. Contents are trucked to Brattleboro, and the composted material (at this time) will not be available for return to residents. Community education was strongly advised, and he will get back to her with more information.

Richard has been in contact with Keene Recycling Center regarding our commingles. They work closely with the NRRA as a broker for materials. They do accept our paper and cardboard, but the commingles would have to be sorted - #1 and #2 plastics only, and glass bottles only. This would require a separate container for each, as well as space for the two containers.

The question was raised regarding the large discrepancy between the cost/ton of the compactor material versus the commingles. While the tonnage is the same price per ton, the trucking computes to roughly six times that of trucking of the compactor tonnage.

The committee again reviewed the practice of Pay as You Throw. Richard has done research regarding bags – cost to print, price to charge per bag, places for townspeople to purchase the bags, etc. The Pay as You Throw concept encourages recycling by having less recyclables placed in the compactor. Again, public education is key here, but it is not a new concept to recycle as much as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Bartlett