

Recycling Center Advisory Committee

Minutes September 16, 2020

Present: Rachel Bartlett, Jon Lounsbury, Robb Ball, with an introduction from Selectman Frank Reeder

The introduction from Frank covered the order of business (elect a chairperson and a person to take responsibility of the meeting minutes); a reminder that this an advisory board and that no action is to be taken without approval of the Board of Selectmen; a brief discussion of the landfill situation; a reminder that the town is a member of the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA), an excellent resource for information.

Robb made a motion that Rachel be chairperson of the committee, which was seconded by Jon. Robb then accepted the position of minute taker of meetings.

Following those formalities, throughout the discussions that followed there was a strong undercurrent of *the moral responsibility of all of the townspeople* that enter into our present commitment. The committee will brainstorm options for the present recycling center with the overriding challenge of reminding or convincing the townspeople that there is more than trash involved; there is a social obligation to the future at stake. The committee feels that this is not an optional endeavor.

Comments/observations:

- Is it practically feasible to have seniors take their waste to Keene?
- Is it an option to separate food from trash? Idea of a composting site?
- The metals should/could be sorted to bring better cash return.
- There are many possibilities that may not be welcomed by the average townspeople; can compliance be expected?
- The covered container requested at Town Meeting 2020 – how much can be saved on shipping with a full load? Is there a liability factor if someone falls while putting their paper recycling in the present container?
- Would it be feasible to purchase a compacter for the aluminum cans?
- Would a recycling cooperative of sorts be beneficial - to join with a few surrounding towns in transporting cans to a recycling site?
- What are the present costs of the present recycling center? Tipping fees? Bulk waste?

There was a consensus at the close of the meeting that there were four main points:

1. What is going on in local municipalities? Is there a possibility of a cooperative?
2. What can change to generate less volume?
3. The present layout of the recycling center is relatively inefficient, which leads to lack of cooperation with present guidelines. The setting needs to be simplified.
4. What is the monetary value to address #1 – 3?

Going forward, the committee will meet with Ben Hoy, Manager at the Walpole, NH, Recycling Center and Transfer Station. The committee will walk the present Westmoreland site.

The tentative next meeting, following those two endeavors, is set for Wednesday, September 30, 2020, at the town hall at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25.

Respectfully submitted, Rachel Bartlett