

10/20/21 Recycling Committee Meeting minutes

In attendance: Rachel Bartlett, Vicki Reeder, Dave Poklemba, Richard Meyer, Amy Morissette

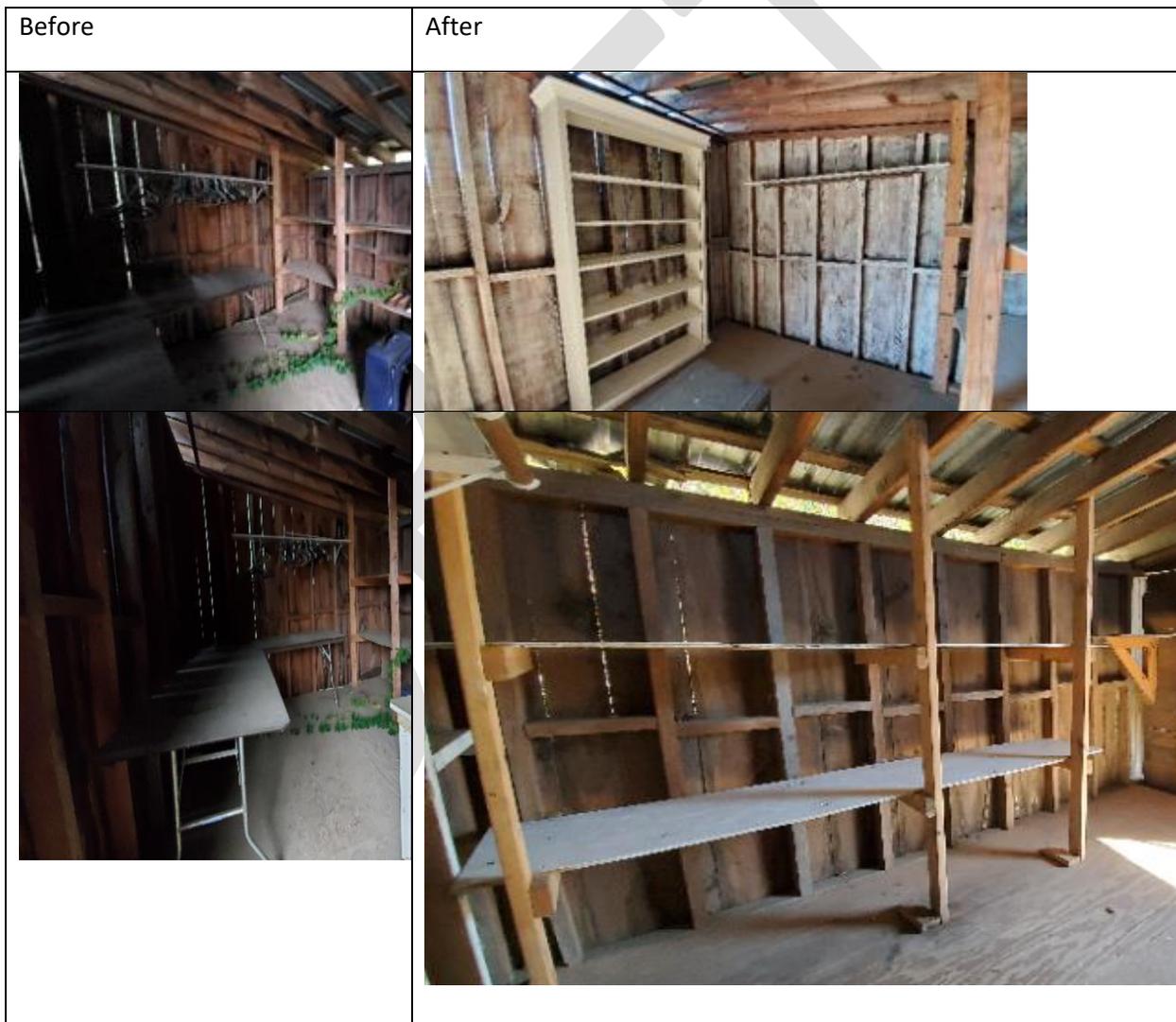
Guest: Kristin Bell – unable to attend

Meeting minutes from 9/20 were accepted with a change to Page 2 under Demolition Container – the word “paper” changed to “demo container”

Next Mtg: November 19, 2021 4:30 p.m.

Swap Shack

Kristin Bell has been working to clean up in preparation to be able to re-open the swap shack. She believes she has several volunteers lined up.



Committee discussed that provisions for attendees would need to be made for Weds and Saturday coverage. There is concern that the attendees won't have time to man this.

Staffing on Saturdays is two people but on Wednesdays there is typically only 1 person onsite – question was asked if we legally have to have two people at the station. The answer was unknown and unknown as to why this could be a requirement. If it is a safety concern as there are lone worker devices that could potentially be utilized.

Approval for materials to be placed would be part of the volunteer responsibilities. Secure closing would be required to prevent people from depositing unapproved materials and/or people accessing it outside of operational hours to remove material. It was shared that people have tried to access the area in the past and gone into steel bins, etc., to remove items of value. We believe there is a game camera up at the recycle center however no one knows if it is functional. Cameras are pretty inexpensive; it may be something that we want to consider adding in the future.

Walpole is very selective around the materials that go in their shack and they have created a revenue source with their swap shack. Items are tagged and the money collected is used for the purchase of gift cards for the volunteers that operate the station.

- Would we want to consider doing something similar (in the past gift cards were done by raffle) with tagging or make an offer type bidding for items in the swap shack?

Containers discussions from team findings

Compactor:

Greatest opportunity for reduction of materials is to drive recycling efforts. Additionally, most towns benchmarked against are charging a per bag fee. We discussed the current sticker price is very low and there is an opportunity to increase that sticker fee values discussed \$25 and \$50 for the year. Both are still relatively low.

30-40% of compactor waste is estimated to be compostable. There is opportunity to further reduce the number of bags going in if people implemented composting into their waste management.

Bag charges can be perceived as a negative, but would also help drive efforts to recycle.

Amy will research if there is recycling education opportunities by either NRRRA or NH DES to maybe hold some workshops to teach people how to recycle.

Commingled Recycling:

Commingled waste can often contain aluminum cans and other non-recyclable materials. This reduces the potential for revenue for these materials. Ideally having segregated waste recycling for plastics, glass, tin, and aluminum would be our best option for gaining any revenues.

Current building would not be able to hold those containers as it exists today. The roof would need to be extended and the containers turned to assist with the collection in a segregated manner. Additionally, this would need manning.

Attendant could recover aluminum misplaced in commingle container with large pole as has been done in the past. Tending and managing the containers would be necessary.

Visual system for managing these streams could be utilized i.e., potential revenue stream to color code containers for materials with the color-coded bins. An example green glass container for home, goes

into green container at center, etc. We could sell the colored containers to users. We also discussed updating signs, but the belief is that people don't read them.

Demolition Container:

Review of the Demo materials cost comparison spreadsheet to other local recycling centers. In 2019 the demo container was a revenue source and profited @\$4k, 2020 cost @\$1170 and YTD 2021 is breaking even.

Non-residential disposal is occurring and should not be allowed. Disposal quantities increased from 25.12 tons in 2019 (when we made money) to 38.25 tons where we lost money.

2 Options:

- Revenue source: look at pricing and make recommendations on appropriately pricing disposal materials. Some materials the current recycling center manager suggested we reduce while others there was a suggestion to raise. It is not a recommendation that we look to reduce any of the \$\$ values for this type of waste disposal but agree that increasing in some areas makes sense based on the comparisons of charges
- Discontinue demolition containers and have town members utilize Keene or Walpole

Paper:

Discussed the past practice that newspaper was used to build walls around cardboard to help support it for better utilization of the containers.

Discussion for paper centered around recent notice from Keene stating that cardboard is contaminating or getting mixed in with the paper. The cardboard gets caught in the shredding equipment and creates issues with processing the material. Town received a notice from the NRRA that moving forward any repeat issues of cardboard mixed with paper would result in a \$155 per ton fine each time.

Cardboard

Richard shared that in 2020 the cost on the town report was \$2386 for the year and the income was only \$306.

Trucking fee had increased from \$165 to \$185 for transport to Keene. Richard reached out to Triple T and the price will drop to \$145 effective Nov 1.

NRRA coordinates transport and disposal and they receive a piece of the income associated with disposal.

Discussion around containers being partially full due to the way they are loaded. Town voted down the purchase of a container for @\$8K. That container was a 20-yard container with a bubble top that had slots that would allow top loading and less voided space in a container when shipped. It would require stairs and platform. Another option would be to modify the existing container making slots in the top and building a platform around it so that people can easily access and add materials.

Walpole takes limited materials from other towns when they need to make a full load – so opportunities there are limited. If we brought them cardboard we would need to alternate containers as they would need to dry store the materials until such time they were to bail it.

Aluminum Cans

Aluminum cans are the highest revenue source potential. These should be segregated from all other waste containers including compacted waste container.

Due to this being a strong revenue source this station should be manned/ watched for compliance.

Metal (Iron)

We did not discuss the metal containers during the meeting.

General Discussion

Review of job descriptions for both the supervisor and attendant roles with particular focus on #2 and #13 of the supervisor's role –

- #2 Researches recycling markets to maintain the recycling revenue stream for the community
 - Are they set up with internet and computer to be able to do this type of research?
- #13 Assist with maintaining adequate volunteer staffing at the Recycle Center through recruitment and positive encouragement of current volunteers
 - Discussed in the past students who needed to meet their community service requirements would help out with watching containers etc.

Cost Discussion around what would it save taxpayers on taxes if Westmoreland did not have a recycle center? For a \$200K house it would save approx. \$106 off overall tax bill and in turn cost the tax payer \$160 per quarter for household pickup services; this would not include recycling.

We discussed that this is a value to the town to have the recycle center and re-affirmed our purpose is to look for ways to ease the tax burden by lowering the costs.

Inquiry into what it would cost to have a service manage the recycle center – i.e. Monadnock Trucking. Gilsum outsources the management of their recycling center. Rachel will try to understand the pros and cons of this as a potential.

Funding It takes money to save money and some infrastructure changes would be needed to better utilize the containers and site. The question was are we able to collect from the COVID recovery fund, as it's intended for critical infrastructure for which we believe this qualifies. County also has federal monies as well; we are uncertain how those are dispensed to the towns.

Polling The question was asked what do people want to see at the recycling center example: increase in sticker prices vs per bag charge, volunteering, etc. We discussed conducting a poll at the recycling center over a month's period of time to hear the voices of the town. Amy and Vicki will work on generating some potential polling questions to be discussed at the November committee meeting. Opportunity to hand out recycling information when polling users

Community Education and Involvement:

Newsletter – suggested to put a link or address in a newsletter for the survey. Discussion that the cost of mailing a newsletter is too much

Recycling workshops – Tara Albert at NH DES holds classes and manages transfer stations – Amy will reach out to her to see what type of outreach services there are available.

To Do's and Follow ups:

- Amy to reach out to NH DES and NRRRA about outreach recycling education
- Rachel to reach out to Monadnock disposal
- Rachel will discuss polling with selectmen to make sure we can do that
- Rachel will post the video and recycling information on the website
- Vicki and Amy will work on polling questions for review at next meeting

Handouts:

Westmoreland Boutique – email communication from Kristin Bell

Job Description – Recycling Center Supervisor

Job Description – Recycling Center Attendant

Demolition container summary – Vicki Reeder

Westmoreland Recycling Center flyer and recycling facts

Casella article – The Story of Today's Recyclables and The Truth about Recycling

Minutes respectfully submitted 10/21/21 by Amy Morissette