

## 9/20/21 Recycling Committee Meeting minutes

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

Guest: Frank Reeder

Next Mtg: October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 3:00 p.m.

Frank provided a brief introduction to the Right to Know rules associated with the formation of the Recycling committee which include the following key elements:

- Meeting at the town hall
- Having a planned agenda
- Ensuring minutes are provided within 5 business days

This is a permanently assigned committee with a 3 year term, serving as an advisory group for the selectboard

History of the recycle center: Established in 1990 for Westmoreland residents only. No commercial disposal. Reference to the 1990 Annual report establishes that the Town of Westmoreland Selectboard has the authority to enact town ordinances.

Goal: Reduce expenses to tax payers

First order of business in the meeting appoint a committee chair and establish who will be taking meeting minutes.

Rachel Bartlett was nominated as committee chair

Rotation of members for taking meeting minutes was voted upon 9/20/21 minutes submitted by Amy Morissette

Recommendation for committee members to apply for an account to NRRA

### **2 Priorities:**

Disposal (containers) Bins – high impact cost? Understanding what is driving cost, how do we compare to other recycle centers, and understanding process/method of collecting and disposing of bins

- Demolition bin – cost is less than what other recycle centers charge
- Commercial dumping is occurring

Requests for Free Shed “Trash to Treasure” shelter to re-open. It was closed due to COVID -19 guidance. Now that that has been lifted the request is to reopen

Challenges:

- Instances of people placing items they don't want to pay for disposal in the shed.
- The shed has to periodically be emptied, which generally consists of disposal of the goods.
- The shed should be manned so that monitoring of the items can take place for what can be placed in the shed

### **Containers**

#### **Compactor:**

Amy Morissette to investigate best practices for compacted waste, gain better understanding of current practices for the compacted waste at the recycle center to share learnings with the team at the October committee meeting.

Current state: Looks to be largest waste stream from the recycle center. Current practices in Westmoreland do not look to align with other town recycle centers

Opportunities: Composting, selling garbage bags for disposal (per bag costing) or tags for bags, education for further recycling

Challenge: As a comparison it is believed that the current cost for disposal of recycled at times is higher than compacted (i.e., co-mingled waste)

### **Co-mingled Recycling:**

Rachel Bartlett will explore best practices related to co-mingled waste recycling, investigate current management of paper at the recycling center and be prepared to discuss findings with the committee during the October 20 mtg.

Current State: Container goes to disposal facility where it is sorted. Currently pay for the disposal of materials in this container. Sounds like the only plastics of real value are the milky looking plastic containers.

Opportunities: Separation of co-mingled waste to extract materials that may produce revenues or reduce the off site sorting to reduce costs associated with disposal

Challenges: staffing that area to aid in the proper separation, education

### **Demolition Container:**

Vicki Reeder will explore best practices related to demolition waste, investigate current management of paper at the recycling center and be prepared to discuss findings with the committee during the October 20 mtg.

Current state: Cost for disposal much higher than revenue it is generating (we don't have mechanism to weigh waste and charge appropriately). Commercial dumping is occurring

Opportunities: Eliminate this type of waste collection (direct to Keene who is much better positioned to accept this type of material), benchmark best practice opportunities

Challenges: Manning and appropriately charging for demolition materials

### **Paper:**

Richard Meyer will explore best practices related to paper recycling, investigate current management of paper at the recycling center and be prepared to discuss findings with the committee during the October 20 mtg.

Current State: Currently paying for disposal of paper. Many papers do not have recycle value.

Opportunities: Copy paper could be recycled for a value

Challenges: Sorting of paper types

### **Cardboard**

Richard Meyer will explore best practices related to cardboard recycling, investigate current management of cardboard at the recycling center and be prepared to discuss findings with the committee during the October 20 mtg.

Current State: Currently paying for disposal of corrugated cardboard. Containers are shipped partially full due to the way cardboard is added to the container

Benchmarking: Walpole has a bailer and storage building for corrugated cardboard where they condense and bail for paid disposal

Opportunities: Exploring potential to partner with another recycling center for disposal for reduced disposal costs or the opportunity for revenues. Rotation of containers with partnered facility:

- Explore giving (avoidance of disposal costs, just transport)
- Explore opportunities for potential revenue

May be opportunity to look into procuring a bailer for low cost as part of some recycling initiatives across the state. In the past there was discussion that there were some programs to assist with these types of opportunities

Man and move materials from front to back of container to maximize container space for more efficiency and reduction in need for more frequent transport costs of materials. This was a practice in place pre-COVID but has stopped as of the pandemic

Challenges: amount of waste generated in Westmoreland does lend us to receive compensation for materials (this led to discussion around opportunity to partner with other centers); bailing and storage would be an issue under current state

### **Aluminum Cans**

Amy Morissette will explore best practices related to aluminum recycling, investigate current management of cans at the recycling center and be prepared to discuss findings with the committee during the October 20 mtg.

Current State: Aluminum cans are a current revenue source for the recycle center. It is believed the Buffum is current disposal company for aluminum cans

### **Metal (Iron)**

Dave Poklemba will explore best practices related to metal recycling, investigate current management of metals at the recycling center and be prepared to discuss findings with the committee during the October 20 mtg.

Current State: Scrap It is believed to be current vendor for scrap metal

### **Community Education and Involvement:**

#### Involvement:

Free Shed – in the past this is something that has been manned

Opportunity: Recognition of volunteers (i.e., raffle gift cards for assisting)

Partnering with school for community service credits

#### Education:

Discussed opportunity for creating a periodic newsletter

Improved signage (New Hampshire the Beautiful can create signs)

Color coding of disposal containers (home use) with disposal containers (recycle center) to help with placing the right materials in the right areas

Posting of "Recycling is Thriving" article in Town Hall

**To Do's and Follow ups:**

- Get a listing of where each commodity is going with a breakdown of the tonnage costs by stream
- Get a copy of the new position description for the recycle center
- Investigation of assigned waste streams for discussion for October meetings

**Handouts:**

12/17/2020 Copy of Recycling Center Advisory Committee recommendation letter to Westmoreland Board of Selectmen

Truth about plastic recycling (article)

Cost comparison chart for demolition materials

1990 Westmoreland Annual Report (this was available to view but no copies handed out to committee members)

Year over year cost spreadsheet (by category) 2016-2020 compiled by Vicki Reeder (extracted from various town reports)

Minutes respectfully submitted 9/22/21 by Amy Morissette