

Hopkinton/Webster Landfill Committee  
Minutes of August 7, 2008

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm. at the Slusser Senior Center

Present: Robert Drown, Louise Carr, Linda Hook, alternate Sally Embley, & Asst. PW Supt. Steve Clough

Also Present: Webster Selectman Tom Mullins, Recycling Committee members

Absent: Peter Russell, Karen Irwin

Chairman Peter Russell was not able to attend the meeting so the committee delegated Louise Carr to be acting Chair for the meeting.

The June 5<sup>th</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were approved.

The Recycling Committee was first on the agenda to finish their presentation on PAYT Implementation Plan. Chairman Russell had requested the Recycling Committee to do a projected cost analysis based on information gathered from the last census that they provided to the committee. There were numerous questions and concerns expressed at the meeting regarding the PAYT program.

Members expressed concern over using plastic bags for the PAYT program if indeed we are trying to be conscious of the environment. It was agreed that if PAYT program were to be implemented that other options should be explored such as providing large bins that would be reused. It is understood the initial start up costs would be more but overall would be more cost effective and environmentally friendly.

Costs of the PAYT program was discussed in length. According to statistical data that an average family with a modest home would pay approximately \$62 to \$70 in taxes to cover the cost of operating the transfer station. Under the PAYT program an average family that recycles effectively would pay approximately \$101 in bag fees and a family that does not recycle would see costs up to \$240 a year in bag fees. Other cost factors that was discussed is the cost of paying private haulers to pick up trash and an additional \$2.00 weekly fee if recyclables were also to be picked up by the private hauler.

Projected tipping fees were discussed and it is estimated by Steve Clough that tipping fees will not escalate as quickly as the Recycling Committee projected. His sense is by 2009 we may see an increase of \$2.00 per ton and perhaps in 2010 an increase of up to \$5.00 per ton with a rate of \$49 by 2010 rather than the projected increase of \$55. It was also asked if the current projects took into consideration the Coop moving forward with a single stream recycling center and how that would impact the projected tipping fees. Until the single stream facility regulations have been ironed out it is difficult to know exactly how the fees will be impacted but the towns participating in the coop have been assured that there will not be a significant impact.

A question was asked if a family recycled all that could be done under the current recycling program what % of trash could be reduced. It was Steve's estimate that up to 50% of household trash is recycled at the transfer station and that households could further reduce their trash by 10% - 15% if they were very good recyclers.

Several questions regarding additional costs were asked. In the PAYT plan it suggests a convenient drop off location for seniors such as the senior center be implemented. The Recycling Committee foresees the town employees who currently collect trash from town facilities would also pick up the recyclables brought to the center. It was suggested in the PAYT plan that low-income families could receive subsidized bags through the Human Services department and the costs of the bags would be

built into the Human Services budget. The number of bags distributed would be determined by family size and with an expectation that they would recycle as much as possible.

There was a lengthy discussion on how the Recycling Committee would perceive the implementation of the PAYT program if only one town voted for it and the other decided not to. Overall, it was the view of the Recycling Committee that if only one town did implement PAYT that both towns would still benefit from the savings in tipping fees because recycling would increase to some degree. A difficulty in enforcement was discussed due to the lack of mandatory curbside pickup and the logistics of two towns with very different histories of trash disposal.

Next on the agenda Steve Clough presented the committee with a handout explaining the 7 types of plastic packaging. The transfer station currently recycles #1 & #2 plastic containers as they produce the most revenue. It was explained that plastics in the #3 through #7 categories are difficult to recycle due to the multiple resins used in the colored plastics. There is currently not a feasible means to recycle the colored plastics but Steve Clough will continue to explore options as the trends do change within the industry. Steve Clough is also exploring options to recycle Styrofoam and if it can be done cost effectively.

The committee discussed the Hopkinton Board of Selectmen's request to make a recommendation on the PAYT plan by August 25<sup>th</sup>. The committee was not able to coordinate another meeting in August so it was requested that the Chair contact the Hopkinton Board of Selectmen and let them know we would discuss a recommendation at our September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting which would be given to both Webster & Hopkinton so it can be discussed at their joint meeting scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting will be September 4<sup>th</sup> at the Webster Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Louise Carr