

Hopkinton/Webster Landfill Committee
Meeting Minutes December 4, 2008

Present: Karen Irwin, Richard Kennedy, Louise Carr, Bob Drown, Linda Hook, Gordon Welch, and Steve Clough

Also Present: Recycling Committee members: Catherine Mitchell, Bob LaPree, Deb Augustine

Haulers: Dockham Trucking – George Dockham, George Dockham Jr., and Forrest Dockham

Webster Hauler George Neville

Eagle Scout Noah Booth

Meeting opened at 7:00 pm. at the Slusser Senior Center

Chairman Karen Irwin opened the meeting by introducing the two local haulers to the committee. The purpose of this meeting was to ask the haulers in what areas could the committee support them in their endeavors to increase recycling pickup. Forrest Dockham informed the committee that the company recently purchased a new hydraulic truck, which allows them to collect recyclables in separate bins that can be dumped individually at the transfer station. Unfortunately, out of his 1,500 customers only 40 have subscribed to the curbside recycling pickup. George Neville explained out of his 175 customers only 9 customers' use the curbside recycling service. They both stated their customers do not want to pay extra for the curbside recycling pickup and if it was offered free more customers would take advantage of this service. The Dockhams and George Neville generated the following ideas that would help them with their businesses to increase recycling pick up.

Create a more comprehensive list of recyclable items that are accepted at the transfer station and also list the items not accepted. It was suggested that the committee review Goffstown's recycling list which they find easier to use.

Explain which #1 & #2 plastics are recyclable because customers don't understand why all cannot be recycled leading to frustration by some customers.

Send out a bulk mailing to both towns introducing the new recycling curbside pickup, provide contact information of both haulers and include flyer to encourage recycling.

Allow Dockham and Neville to park recycling truck at the transfer station to promote curbside pickup

Both haulers support mandatory recycling but do not support the PAYT option

Can an incentive program be offered to commercial accounts to help offset their trash hauling costs if they choose to recycle all possible products? Currently out of 90 commercial accounts only 12 are actively recycling their waste.

Option of having an environmental center would increase recycling of goods they presently can not accept from their customers such as plastic 5 gallon buckets, clear egg cartons, large wide mouth plastic containers, etc.

Eagle Scout Noah Booth did a presentation of an Eagle Scout project he would like to undertake. Noah is asking the committee for their support to underwrite from the revolving fund the purchase of curbside recycling bins that would be sold at a reduced rate to residents in both towns. Noah will work with his fellow boy scouts to create a contest in the local schools for the winning logo to be used on the side of the bins, he will lead the promotion to purchase the curbside bins and take advance orders to determine the amount of bins to order and will take responsibility of the delivery of bins. The committee members were supportive of the idea and asked that he provide the committee members through email his final proposal,

as he wants to start his project in January. The recycling committee members also offered their support of his project and will be willing to take over the ordering of bins if the interest is still present after he has completed the initial program. The Dockhams offered their support of the project by sending order forms out with their bills and would provide Noah with contact information on recycling bins that they have collected. George Neville also stated he would assist anyway he could with the project.

Steve updated the committee that the Hopkinton Board of Selectman reduced his transportation budget line item to reflect the decrease in gas prices and increased the transfer budget due to the slight increase in tipping fees. The prices for recyclables are still very low but are hopeful the prices will increase throughout the year. Presently the worst fees are for loose fibers, mixed paper and cardboard are low but should at least break even if the rates don't improve. Metals are still generating revenue but prices are lower than the past several months. Steve is consolidating tin and aluminum with other surrounding communities to create full loads to maximize the revenues against the cost of transportation.

The question was raised why the "official" report from the committee on the PAYT proposal was not on the Hopkinton's town website. It was explained it was an oversight by the committee in not delegating the task to the web master. Karen will follow up on the request and get the report posted ASAP.

The Webster committee members wanted to restate for the record that they are not in support of the SMART PAYT proposal for the same reasons that the landfill committee outlined in their report which was submitted to the respective Boards of Selectman.

The November meeting minutes were approved.

The committee was reminded that in January we are to elect new officers. Louise Carr & Linda Hook's terms on the committee are also completed and will need to determine if they choose to continue serving on the committee.

Future agenda items will include:

Election of officers and committee term expirations

Environmental Center proposal

Landfill Committee web page

Mandatory recycling

Transfer station facility expansions

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Carr