

Hopkinton/Webster Landfill Committee
Slusser Center
Minutes

July 2, 2009

There was a meeting of the Hopkinton/Webster Landfill Committee on Thursday July 2, 2009 at the Slusser Center in Hopkinton. The meeting was scheduled to begin at 7 P.M. but all members were not present. The Cooperative's Single Stream Recycling proposal and the overall future of trash disposal options were discussed in general. The meeting began at 7:15 P.M. Bob Drown, Linda Hook, Barbara Corliss, Bob Lapree, and Steve Clough were present. Frank Davis and Tom Mullins also attended.

The June minutes were reviewed. Bob Drown made a motion to accept the minutes, Linda seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. Steve will have them posted. He will also check on why the 2009 Committee Agendas and Minutes aren't evident on the website. They have all been provided as required.

Barbara has been trying to get up to speed as a new committee member and requested some more information. Steve gave her a copy of the Refuse Ordinance, referred her to the Proper Disposal Brochure for further processing information, and will provide her with the CIP schedule, the Revolving Fund balance, and the Revolving Fund enabling legislation.

The status of the proposed Got Books program and the number 5 plastics program were discussed. Bob Drown asked about the status of the software installation at the transfer station. That is scheduled for next week.

Steve went over the several ways that projects are planned and implemented and suggested some additional coordination. Projects are financed from the budget, the Capital Improvement Program, and the Recycling Revolving Fund.

The projects being done on budget for 2009 were explained. There has been a safety gate installed across the commercial hopper at the station. This disposal chute approach was intended for commercial trucks but has become indispensable to accommodate large residential loads and congestion on high residential traffic days. The gate was installed to comply with state law rather than closing the area to residents.

The long electrical service line to the station is causing voltage drops and restricting the performance of the compaction equipment. It would be complicated and expensive to upgrade this line and keep it underground. A new pole will be installed by Public Service, at their expense, so that a transformer can be located near the station. The electrical service will then be rewired directly into the station. This type of upgrade has been completed at other stations (New Boston & Weare) and improved equipment performance so that more trash per load can be compacted. This relocation will also

provide a practical way to replace the electrical service at the recycling building. The current direct bury cable is inadequate.

Repairing all of the deteriorating pavement at the upper area of the station will also be done. After 20 years of heavy traffic there are extensive wear areas. This will stabilize the access roads and act as shimming for a further upgrade.

A new trash trailer is being specified for purchase in 2009 as scheduled. This will have an additional axle, sturdier construction, and a high grade undercoating and paint job. This should allow for larger loads which will cut shipping costs and will also allow the trailers to be replaced less often. The intention will be add another axle to the other trailer if the savings prove to be as predicted.

The CIP Plan, which covers over ten years but is revised annually, can hopefully be adjusted this year to accommodate projects such as the axle addition, pavement overlays, and improvements to the station. It may be possible to accomplish these revisions and reduce the annual contribution to the CIP account. These projects will be developed further to assist in this year's CIP revision.

Several projects that could be funded by the Recycling Revolving Fund, such as additional drop-off space and more storage, have been discussed. It was suggested that these projects also be cost estimated and scheduled. The schedule for these projects could be reviewed every year, like the CIP is, and be either recommended for implementation or rescheduled as they come up. The committee decided to further coordinate all planning at the facilities.

The Swap Shop was discussed. Steve had provided some potential locations for review. Bob Lapree, who is also on the Recycling Committee, provided some pictures of the Warner and Henniker swap areas. It was decided that the structure intended for the swap shop should be constructed as a functional storage area for recyclables so that it would still have a valuable use even if the swap shop turns out not to be as successful as hoped. The committee also felt that Steve should size and design the building. The functions and operation can then be established. Steve will then cost out the capital costs and operational costs (if any).

Barbara had several questions on operational and financial practices at the station. Steve explained the record keeping system and safeguards against losses. The fee handling procedures are reviewed regularly by Hopkinton's Finance Department and the town auditors. The reasons for the current practices were further discussed.

The next committee meeting will be at 7 P.M., at the Webster Town Hall, on Thursday August 6, 2009. Bob Lapree made a motion to adjourn, Bob Drown seconded it, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 P.M.

Submitted by Steve Clough: Ex-Officio

