

Hopkinton/Webster Landfill Committee
Webster Town Hall

April 1, 2010

There was a meeting of the Hopkinton/Webster Landfill Committee on Thursday April 1, 2010. The meeting began at 7 P.M. with Karen Irwin, Stretch Kennedy, Bob LaPree, Barbara Corliss, Bob Drown, and Sally Embley present. Tom Mullins from Webster also attended the meeting.

The February minutes were reviewed. Two typos were pointed out. Karen made a motion to approve the minutes, as amended with the typo corrections, Bob LaPree seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The protocol for voting on the chairmanship, which alternates annually between a member from Hopkinton and a member from Webster, was discussed briefly. Bob LaPree made a motion to elect Karen Irwin as chairperson for the upcoming year, Stretch seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Committee memberships were discussed briefly. Bob Drown, whose term is up in 2010 agreed to serve another term contingent upon the Webster Board's approval. Sally's term as alternate expires in 2011. Linda Hook, whose term runs until 2012, has moved out of Webster. The Webster Board will appoint someone to fill out her term. Karen Irwin's term is up in 2010 but she is willing to serve another term contingent upon the Hopkinton Board's approval.

The Cooperative withdrawal status was updated. Both towns approved the withdrawal at their respective town meetings and the Cooperative's Joint Board approved the withdrawal terms & conditions at their March 25th meeting. The final paperwork is being taken care of by the respective attorneys.

The new trash disposal option process was discussed. Berlin was the selected option to date but has not been set in stone. Steve has been conducting a process to accept proposals for other alternatives. There will be offers that involve several landfills and incinerators, which represent all of the cost competitive MSW disposal options within 125 miles of Hopkinton and Webster, presented to the Boards in case they want to revisit their current selection.

The committee discussed several disposal related topics. The liability was questioned and Steve informed the committee that only the owners of disposal facilities were responsible for the long term costs of their facilities according to state and federal law. The owners have to provide financial assurance and comply with the annual reporting requirements. That is why it is not addressed in contracts.

The PAYT plan for Hopkinton was discussed. Bob LaPree went over the outline for PAYT committee appointments and proposed tasks. He noted that the cost of the bags were established at town meeting at \$1.25 each for the first year. When asked, he further stated that Hopkinton intended to put the funds generated from the sale of bags into a separate account. Rather than defraying the operational budget as previously envisioned, the funds will go to defray Hopkinton's costs only.

Bob went on to explain that the bags will be sold in local stores and that those stores will deal directly with the vendors and not receive a commission for selling the bags. The town will then receive the bag money directly from the bag vendor. Coupons may also be used in some capacity.

Steve expressed concern that the topic of supporting the employees at the station, who would obviously need help, still couldn't be discussed. Bob replied that he thought that the PAYT committee would be willing to discuss that issue. Steve explained briefly how and why he would propose being reactive, rather than proactive, in dealing with the increased workload dictated by implementing the PAYT program at the station. Modeling and projecting costs and revenues won't work in this case because of the uncertainties involved.

Steve updated the committee on the status of plastic collection changes. The NRRA had said recently that they have a 1-7s plastics collection program whereby almost 100% of the plastics would be recycled and that they also have a market for rigid plastics. Based on that he planned to make a conversion but the NRRA has reversed itself and now says that these programs aren't available yet. They can still market 1-7s but the vendors only use the 1s and 2s and throw away the rest. Steve stated that some type of change would probably be needed this year but that he planned on waiting a while to see if these new plastic programs would materialize.

The swap shop proposal was brought up. Steve also went over that the Hopkinton Board wanted policy changed at the transfer station. Nothing is to be given away at the station for reuse if it has any value to the towns. This is a significant change. The committee decided to take a look at developing new reuse policies and operational rules.

The committee discussed the agenda for the May meeting. Minute approval, trash disposal options, PAYT update, the swap shop proposal, and other business will be on the May agenda.

Barbara made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bob Drown seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 9 P.M.