

Hopkinton-Webster Refuse Disposal Committee
Minutes 5 May 2011
APPROVED

Webster attendees: Barbara Corliss (chair), Bob Drown Sr., Ellen Kontinos-Cilley, Martin Bourque, and Sally Embley. Webster absentee: Tom Mullins. Hopkinton attendees: Bob LaPree, Karen Irwin, Richard Kennedy, Rich Houston, and Steve Clough (advisory member).

The chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM and introduced Webster's newest alternate, Ellen Kontinos-Cilley.

The group reviewed and amended the RDC roster. Ms. Corliss will make updates and distribute them.

The board reviewed the minutes from the meeting of 7Apr11. Sally Embley moved to accept the minutes; Robert Drown seconded the motion, and the board voted to accept the amended minutes. Mr. LaPree reminded the committee that the Hopkinton Town Council will sponsor a meeting about the right-to-know laws including the timing and availability of minutes. Mr. LaPree will inform the committee as to the date and time.

Mr. Clough presented his Transfer Station Activities Report. He also provided hard copy of the Hopkinton Pay-By-Bag Report. In summary, there have been no significant changes in the amount of recycling for the first 6 months of PAYT (Pay As You Throw). He states that it is too early to predict the effect on 2011 expenditures or the potential tax impact.

Mr. Clough provided Mr. Bourque with a copy of the Hopkinton-Webster Waste Management Plan dated December 1989 with the caveat that it is obsolete. The Hopkinton-Webster Waste Management Plan is the agreement between the State of N. H. and the towns of Webster and Hopkinton.

Mr. Clough stated that there has been a 'bad sampling round' for the water being delivered to 5 houses. He stressed that the data is preliminary but that re-testing will be done. Apparently lead, which can occur naturally, has been found, but '1-4 Dioxane', which does not occur naturally, has not been found.

Mr. LaPree provided information gathered from the Hopkinton Board of Selectmen. They are considering setting up satellite recycling drop-off locations. They are also considering curbside pickup for the entire town with the long term goal of eliminating or significantly reducing the need for the Transfer Station.

The Committee discussed changes to the Refuse Disposal Ordinance, made minor

changes for clarity, and added a definition of 'reuse' provided by Ms. Irwin. Ms. Corliss will provide members with the latest draft for approval at the June meeting.

The Committee discussed how tipping fees are calculated. Currently, if a resident goes over a 400 pound limit he pays a fee on the entire weight. It was suggested that the fee should be calculated on the total weight less 400 pounds. The committee made no decisions except to discuss this at a future meeting.

Mr. Clough provided copies of all available historical documents regarding the Refuse Disposal Agreement between Hopkinton and Webster. This material covers the period from its inception to 1986. Chairperson Corliss gave the Committee an action item to review the material in detail for discussion at the June meeting.

A Hopkinton Selectman stated a wish to withdraw from the Hopkinton-Webster Agreement. Mr. Clough stated the cost of such an endeavor is currently difficult to calculate. Mr. Clough was asked questions concerning the comparison of the Hopkinton-Webster Transfer Station costs with other towns. He said that this was difficult as Hopkinton and Webster cover 70% of expenses by its fee structure while other towns use other methods to cover costs.

Under the Public Comments section of the meeting, Mr. John Little stated that he has spoken to the Hopkinton Selectmen about access to the facility. According to Mr. Little, they apparently want no access outside of normal business hours. The position of the Webster Selectmen is unknown. Mr. Little stated that he had been going into the facility after hours four days per week for many (40) years. Bob LaPree asked him what he was doing there and he replied "pilfering". Mr. Little stated that he puts anything that looks good into his vehicle from the scrap pile. Some discussion regarding state laws on trespass and the posting of property then occurred with no decisions made.

Sally Embley asked about the status of the Swap Shop proposal. Mr. LaPree stated that the Hopkinton Selectmen want to defer this discussion for at least a year or until the impact of PAYT is settled. The position of the Webster Selectmen is unknown.

Bob LaPree said Hopkinton Selectman O'Brien wants to raise fees. The suggestion was raised to establish a subcommittee to review fees, and this will be discussed at the June meeting.

Bob LaPree made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Bob Drown, and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.