

Hopkinton-Webster Refuse Disposal Committee

Minutes 2 June 2011

APPROVED

Webster attendees: Barbara Corliss (chair), Bob Drown Sr., Martin Bourque, Sally Embley, Tom Mullins.
Webster absentee: Ellen Kontinos-Cilley.

Hopkinton attendees: Karen Irwin, Richard Kennedy, Richard Houston, and Steve Clough (advisory member). Hopkinton absentee: Bob LaPree.

The chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Approval of the minute of 5 May 2011 was deferred until the next meeting.

Mr. Clough presented his Transfer Activities Report. He reported that with approximately 40% of the year completed, approximately 35% of the budget has been expended and that to date, revenues are down. Water wells have been retested and the data has been submitted to the state. There is no estimate of when the results will be available. Preliminary reports from the State Water Management Division do not indicate if the Landfill is responsible for the increase in lead in the well water.

The latest changes to Refuse Disposal Ordinance were discussed and minor changes made. There was some discussion about how fees are structured, and it was agreed that this will be discussed in detail at a future meeting. Karen Irwin made a motion to accept the document as amended. Tom Mullins seconded the motion, which was carried by a unanimous voice vote. The document will be passed to the Select boards of the towns of Hopkinton and Webster for their review. There is a joint meeting scheduled for 20 June, and Barbara will inform the RDC members of the location and time.

Barbara Corliss distributed an informational document she prepared entitled Refuse Disposal Committee Authority and Responsibility. She indicated that the material was primarily extracted from the original agreement and amendments between the towns of Webster and Hopkinton. There was a brief discussion about how budgeting is accomplished and how revenues and expenses are apportioned.

The RDC members entered into a 'brain storming' session with the intent to set objectives for the year 2011. These objectives will become agenda items during the current year. The objectives decided upon and their priorities are as follows:

1. Gain a solid understanding of the revenues and expense streams of the Facility. Mr. Clough offered to present to the RDC detailed information on the Facilities revenues and expenses. His offer was accepted and will be scheduled. There was some discussion of setting up a committee to study this issue and to bring their results to the RDC; and while it was agreed that this was a good idea, the implementation will be deferred until Mr. Clough makes his presentation.

2. Examine, in detail, the fee structure used by the Facility. Mr. Clough indicated that the RDC should be aware that while the fee structure is important, it is only one piece of the revenue stream and that changes to them may have other ramifications to revenues and expenses.
3. Explore the issue of security at the Facility. Mr. Houston indicated that the Hopkinton Recycling Committee was very interested in this issue and provided some preliminary estimates of the expenses involved to purchase and install remote security cameras.
4. Develop a plan to increase recycling and re-use and its affect on revenues. This would include the issue of the 'Swap Shop'.

During the Public comments portion of the meeting, it was asked when the Ordinance would go into effect. The response was that this depends on actions of the Select Boards, if they accepted the amended ordinance, and how soon a public hearing could be scheduled. One citizen indicated that security is important because it can affect revenue.

Tom Mullins made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 PM; it was seconded by Mr. Kennedy and passed on a voice vote.