

Hopkinton/Webster Landfill Committee
Slusser Center
Hopkinton, New Hampshire

June 6, 2013

APPROVED

Attendance: Barbara Corliss, Chair (W), Sally Embley (W), Ellen Kontinos-Cilley (W),
Dave Klumb, Alt. (W), Mike Greenwood, Alt. (W)

Karen Irwin (H), Rich Houston (H)

Steve Clough, Ex Officio

Absent: Richard Kennedy (H),

Recycling Committee: Mary Leadbeater, Ginni Haines, Rosalie Smith, Sara Persechino

Public: Frank Davis, Leslie Stenebeck

Barbara brought the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. She commented on the Modification public hearing and the action to rescind by the Hopkinton Board of Selectmen and thanked Steve for his work on the project. She also expressed her concerns that the Hopkinton Board's proposals to have Hopkinton go to curbside trash pickup, get out of the Hopkinton/Webster 1975 agreement, and/or to close the transfer station would have an adverse impact on Webster regardless of the "divorce" clause in the agreement. These eventualities were briefly discussed.

Steve went over some of the financial information that was provided at that public hearing that he thought was misleading and provided additional budget numbers. The 2013 budget is 5% lower than the 2006 budget, overall revenue is 57% higher in 2013 than it was in 2006, the solid waste and bond budgets will be down by over 70% from 2009 to 2016. The facility was repaved after 23 years while the other roads in Hopkinton are on a 10 year schedule and there have been no recycling investments since 2008. Steve also pointed out that residents certainly have the right to make any comments that they want but it should be noted as a matter of fact that the facilities do meet all regulatory requirements, recyclable materials are not hazardous waste, recycling is not spreading groundwater contamination, and the area is not being polluted by the recycling program.

The committee reviewed the May 2013 Minutes and corrected a couple of typos. Karen made a motion to approve the May Minutes, Ellen seconded the motion, and the Minutes were approved 5-0. Steve provided the May activities report.

Steve went over the new recycling efforts including #5 plastics, plastic caps, rigid plastics, chipping brush, email education/reuse, and other future possibilities. Public outreach was discussed with options concerning the schools, the Grapevine, events, programs, etc. Karen requested that the topic of a public information plan be put on the agenda. The Recycling Committee members made several comments on the new programs, decided to put out information through existing email groupings, and asked Steve to insure that invasive species were kept out of the brush chips. He will develop safeguards. Karen left the meeting at 7:25 PM and the Recycling Committee left at 8 PM.

Barbara requested public comment. Frank recommended that members visit the “Swap Barn” and the Warner transfer station swap shop area to see how they operate. He also gave the committee information on the potential consequences of banning plastic grocery bags.

Leslie Stenebeck wanted to make several comments. She thought that the committee was sarcastic in regards to the public hearing, was against the permit modification because she felt that it was open-ended, was concerned that septage was being dumped without any supervision or regulation and was contaminated, was upset about the 200 pound limit, felt that the committee should require that the schools and fair recycle, thought that the recycling table was a bad idea, and thought that the committee should be reproached for not employing the unused express lane as a swap shop. She also stated that she recycled and intended some of her criticisms of the committee and the facilities to be positive.

Barbara explained the public process and the fact that the committee has no authority. The committee bases all of its recommendations on input from the public and all of the decisions are actual made by the public and the boards. Barbara also stated that she didn’t mean to be sarcastic although it was hard to ignore the totally unwarranted accusatory tone at the hearing. All discussions and actions have been public and all have been recorded in minutes, on the website, in town reports, published in newspapers, and sent to abutters over a period of years. She would like to have had all of Leslie’s comments during the years that she has been on the Committee.

Mike commented on some of the extensive regulations on trucking, shipping, solid wastes, etc. that prevent illegal dumping. Rich also stated that it would be pretty much impossible for truckloads of out-of-state wastes to be dumped at the facilities or on Penacook Road as has been repeatedly stated as fact by one of the abutters.

Steve briefly mentioned some of the permitting requirements, testing programs, inspections, supervision, record-keeping, etc. that are part of the facilities routine operation.

Rich made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ellen seconded it, the vote was 4-0, and the meeting ended at 8:20 P.M.

These Minutes were drafted by Steve Clough, Ex Officio

