

Hopkinton/Webster Landfill Committee
Slusser Center
Hopkinton, New Hampshire

April 3, 2014

DRAFT

Attendance: Sally Embley (W), Ellen Kontinos-Cilley (W), Mike Greenwood, Alt. (W)
Harold Janeway, Unconfirmed Status (W), Arthur Cunningham (H),
Rich Houston (H),

Steve Clough, Ex Officio

Absent: Dave Klumb, Alt. (W)

Public: Frank Davis, Mattie Sorel, Keara Campbell

Sally brought the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M. Mattie Sorel and Keara Campbell came to the meeting as part of a civics project. Observing how Committees operate is one aspect of learning how local government works. The February Minutes were reviewed. Sally made a motion to accept the Minutes, Mike seconded the motion, and the February Minutes were approved unanimously (3-0 by the members who attended).

Steve provided the Off-Hours Activity Report for March. Ellen noted that the February Report was not provided because there was no meeting in March. It will be brought to the next meeting.

The November Nobis Groundwater Report was made available. Art did not ask for the report to be distributed but did want to comment for the record. He pointed out that LMW-2 and LMW-3, the two monitoring wells adjacent to the septage lagoons, exceeded water quality standards for Nitrate. He further stated that he believed that the lagoons should be shut down because he didn't think that they should be in the Groundwater Management Zone. Art agreed that there were no Groundwater Permit violations. Steve stated that the Lagoons would be shut down immediately if any violations did occur.

Since there was interest in the septage lagoons Steve explained why they are there. When the Landfill was closed in 1996 there had to be a Groundwater Management Zone established, which had to include the lagoon area, regardless of whether the lagoons were utilized or not. The GMZ is considered a good place for the lagoons by regulators because by definition they cannot contaminate drinking water in the area. The lagoons have generated close to a million

dollars in revenue and kept disposal costs below average for residents since the decision to keep them operating was made in 1996.

Sally skipped to the agenda mission discussion. Steve summarized the operations of the 150 acre facility which includes solid waste disposal, collecting and processing recycling, GMZ management, maintenance of a closed landfill, and the operation of a Community Water System. Sally went over the concept of Hopkinton and Webster representation. Mike commented on the decision making process. Ellen pointed out that the Refuse Committee has responsibilities in addition to policy and oversight. It also reviews budgets, projects, and the ordinance and makes recommendations to the Boards of Selectmen. Ellen also read intentions from the original Refuse agreement.

Rich stated that he thought the Refuse Committee is important because it vets ideas, reviews budgets, and develops understanding. There was a discussion about the support needed by the Boards. There seemed to be a consensus that the Boards are supportive when dealing directly with the Committee but that they don't accept recommendations and they don't backup the Committee when the public is involved. Harold suggested that the Committee initiate some public education. Art stated that he thought that the Committee should focus more on reviewing reports especially expenses and revenue.

Sally questioned how often the Committee should meet and suggested every other month. One member agreed but a couple of members thought monthly was appropriate. There was no consensus so the topic will be discussed again going forward.

Sally brought up the annual chairman election. It's scheduled to be a member from Hopkinton this year. After some discussion Sally appointed alternate Mike Greenwood as a voting member for Webster for this meeting and a vote was taken. Ellen nominated Rich Houston for the Chairmanship, Sally seconded the nomination, and Rich was elected Chairman for the upcoming year unanimously (4-0 with Rich abstaining). Rich and Mike left the meeting at 7:30.

Sally returned to the Paint Care topic on the agenda. Art told the Committee about the proposed program. It has been passed in several states and has passed the New Hampshire House as HB 1570. Art explained that under this program there would be a small fee placed on paint at the point of sale and the proceeds would be used to fund the return of unused paint. Paint retailers, hardware stores, lumber dealers could decide to accept unused paint for recycling and disposal, the incentive being increased retail foot traffic. Towns and municipalities, including transfer stations, could also set up free drop-off centers for unused paint. The fund would pay for the disposal.

Sally was unsure if Harold is a member or alternate so she appointed him as a voting member for this meeting (She will confirm his status with the Webster Board before the next meeting). After some discussion Art made a motion that the Refuse Committee express its support for the Paint Care legislation and send a letter of endorsement to New Hampshire's State Senators

recommending passage, Ellen seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous (4-0). Art volunteered to write the letter on behalf of the Refuse Committee.

Sally opened the meeting for other business. Ellen asked if Hopkinton's Town Counsel had resolved the insurance issue yet. Steve said that the Counsel has promised to have an answer by the next meeting. The property insurance is provided by Hopkinton but was not considered consequential enough to be put in the budget this year. The liability issue is outstanding. Ellen will check on the progress of this issue on Webster's end.

Ellen stated that she would like to have updates on what the Recycling Committee is working on at this Committee's monthly meeting. Sally used to do that. She also suggested that the Refuse Committee meet with the Recycling Committee some month.

Art brought up the issue of the Committee reviewing income and expense reports monthly. There were varying opinions on what the report frequencies should be. Steve will provide whatever the Committee requests.

Frank Davis was asked if he would like to fill Hopkinton's vacant Committee seat. He has turned down this offer in the past but reluctantly agreed to accept the position if offered. Steve will have the appointment brought up to the Hopkinton Board before the next meeting.

The monthly meeting schedule will be discussed at the May Meeting. The Roster will also be updated. Expense and revenue reports will be provided at the May meeting and Reports will be put on the agenda for discussion. Suggestions for other agenda topics are welcome.

Steve provided three interested members with a range of reports for consideration. These reports included all three final budgets with actual expenditures for 2013 and several previous years, final revenues for 2013, 10 year Capital improvement schedules for both Hopkinton and Webster, 2013 & 2014 capital reserve accounting for Hopkinton, Recycling Revolving Fund Balance, Pay-By-Bag Fund Balance, NERRA recycling promotion Report, the final programs report for 2013 in the new format (recycling, solid waste, proper disposal items, C&D totals, and all other revenue and non-revenue generating materials all in one report), and the 2014 first quarter expense report for all three budgets.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

These Minutes were drafted by Steve Clough, Ex Officio

