

Recreation Committee Mtg Mins 06/27/06

Hopkinton Recreation Committee
June 27, 2006

Date: June 6, 2006

Minutes Recycle Committee

Present: Debbie Augustine, Angie Wright, Steve Clough, Katherine Mitchell, Lynne Hardy, Laura Mason

Guests present: Lee Wilder, Derek Owen, Ron Klemarczyk, Erick Leadbeater

The meeting opened at 6:30 pm, and the May minutes were accepted.

Next the discussion of the Pay As You Throw (PAYT) forum held in May took place. This forum was informative, but there was not enough detail from some of the Peterborough to fully understand their program. Steve explained that Peterborough's residents have two options for trash, one with Waste Management and one with the town of Peterborough. The committee has not received an opinion from REACH on the forum. Katherine explained that REACH hasn't had any meetings lately, and they don't meet unless a pressing need arises. We discussed whether or not we should continue researching PAYT. Debbie and Katherine offered to drive to Peterborough to research further, and they will report back at the next meeting. Debbie wondered about inviting Liz Bedard to a meeting to learn more about towns similar to ours with PAYT programs.

Steve stated that he needs a recommendation from the committee to start the electronic recycling proposal. Angie will send the letter of endorsement on behalf of the committee. We decided that in one year we will ban all electronics from being disposed of in the bin, that there will be no charge for disposing of electronics except for businesses which will pay 15 cents per pound. We will need a town ordinance for this to be enforced. Steve will use the vendor that he has used in the past to dispose of the electronics collected at the yearly electronics collection events.

We will not get involved with Planet Aid at this point since there were too many questions surrounding their parent organization, pickup schedules, etc. The textiles collection at the transfer station also seems to be working well and presently there is no need to add another program.

Lee Wilder, Derek Owen, Ron Klemarczyk and Eric Leadbeater from the Hopkinton Conservation Commission joined the meeting to discuss the Merrimack River landfill proposal. Lee informed us of the proposal and reminded us that Wheelabrator may close its existing Penacook plant in 2009. He surmised that the COOP chose the site along the Merrimack due to proximity to the highway reducing hauling costs. Lee described the proposed site geologically and said that it could become catastrophic due to soil shifting especially if we have a period of torrential rains (one doesn't have to be reminded of how possible that is!!). Lee said that there is a lot of conservation land that surrounds the proposed site. Another concern is that the COOP could accept trash from other states. There will be a third geological report released in June. Lee stated that there were a lot of errors in the COOP report. We will plan on meeting again to discuss a possible plan to consider fighting this option.

Laura stated that the school was planting trees today.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next meeting will be July 11, 2006 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynne Hardy