

Town of Hopkinton, NH

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Recycling Committee Minutes - 10/09/2007

Hopkinton/Webster Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes October 9, 2007

Present: Debbie Augustine, Katherine Mitchell, Mary Leadbeater, Don Lane, David Lancaster, Liane Kerbyson, Bob LaPree, Sally Embley and Betsy Janeway.

Meeting commenced at 6:30pm

Debbie asked Don Lane if he had seen Steve Clough's letter to the editor and if he had met with him. Don said he had seen the letter but had not met with Steve.

Don noted that the success of getting PAYT established will require Steve's support. He said the committee has not developed rapport or a dialogue with Steve.

Debbie and Katherine both expressed their frustration with the progress of their discussions with Steve regarding PAYT.

A lengthy general discussion followed about the PAYT implementation plan that had been outlined by Steve in a document sent to the committee in July as well as his letter to the editor. There was a consensus that the letter is too vague to really know what Steve's plans are.

Don said he would try to arrange a meeting with the BOS, Steve Clough, Dockham and the committee on Monday, Oct. 15 to discuss and iron out the details of a PAYT plan to be presented to the residents.

Sally and Don discussed the difficulty Webster and Hopkinton have in jointly operating the transfer station. Sally expressed her concerns about the lack of detailed accounting of the finances involved in the operation of the facility. She said the Webster selectmen want to have a better working relationship in operating the transfer station and better accounting of the finances.

General discussion followed on what would likely happen if Webster decided not to participate in the PAYT plan. Don said that Webster could follow that course but would not reap the cost saving benefits of PAYT.

The committee discussed postponing the October 23rd public forum due to the lack of consensus between the committee and Steve.

It was decided to postpone the forum until the issues are resolved.

David said his inquiry with the D.R.A. indicated that the use of a separate account for money generated from sale of PAYT bags and recyclables is an acceptable and standard practice by other towns in the state. D.R.A. states to "raise money in a warrant article" can mean raising money through several means, including PAYT bag revenue

David reiterated his position that funds generated from PAYT and recycling must be kept in the separate account and not put into the town's general fund.

Bob explained that dual stream recycling with curbside pick-up would be a better option to single stream since it could be processed in Hooksett and would afford the town the opportunity to collect and sell the

paper/cardboard that is recycled. The dual stream method would be fairly easy to implement and be accommodated by Dockham.

Debbie said she did not want single/dual stream recycling brought up at the meeting with Steve and the BOS, feeling it would unduly complicate the discussion and negotiations over details of the plan to be agreed on to present to the residents.

Bob indicated he felt it is important to discuss as many implementation options that make sense to consider.

Sally stated that the Webster BOS wants the figures of money derived from sale of bags and recyclables to make sense before they will agree to PAYT.

Discussion followed on an outline of the points of the committee's PAYT plan to be presented at the BOS and Steve meeting on Oct. 15.

Mary said that recycling bins have been purchased for the High School and playing fields. Debbie said it will be important to have the support of the school administration for the utilization of the bins.

Under other business Mary said that the Greener Hopkinton group will be holding a strategic planning session on Saturday, Oct. 20 from 9am to 1pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Submitted by Bob LaPree