

Hopkinton/Webster Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2009

(These minutes should be considered unofficial until approved at the May 13th meeting)

Present: Debbie Augustine, Katherine Mitchell, Bob LaPree, Mary Leadbeater, Mary Jo MacGowan – new members Ginni Haines and Judy Fayre.

Guests – Richard Houston and Marion Paxton

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

Ginnin and Judy were welcomed to the committee and introductions were made.

Minutes approved.

Judy suggested that the committee should try to determine what the major objections the voters had to the Pay by Bag warrant article at the 2009 Town Meeting so that they could be addressed when the proposal is presented again next year. She also suggested that each household could receive a free bag per week and that bag revenues be used immediately to fund operation of the transfer station.

Ginni suggested that a representative from the schools should join the committee to improve the recycling efforts in the schools. Students should be brought into the effort to increase recycling in the schools. Bob said the superintendent of schools should be mandating a recycling program in the schools.

Debbie suggested that the Dockhams be invited to provide input into how to advance their recycling pick-up program and the possibility of using their recycling truck for a satellite drop-off receptacle as a pilot program.

Rich Houston suggested that the bag fees should reflect the tipping fee cost of disposal of each bag, with the operation of the transfer station supported by tax funds.

Mary Jo related that there had been no efforts at the Webster Town Meeting to address the Pay by Bag issue.

Bob related the discussion of Pay by Bag at the last Landfill Committee. Mary Leadbeater suggested that the committee work to create a recycling drop-off set-up for seniors at the Slusser Senior Center. She indicated that Don Lane is supportive of recycling and should be invited to help set-up a program at the Slusser Center.

Mary reported that 50 compost bins, 28 kitchen pails and 15 rain barrels had been sold, she said that she will arrange for pick-up, Bob said he would provide a van if needed.

Bob related some research he has done on possibly having a research opinion poll taken to determine resident's attitudes and needs for more successful recycling.

Debbie resigned as committee chair citing the need to reduce her work load for the committee. No member has offered to take on the chairmanship at this point.

Next meeting May 13th 2009 at 6:30pm the Local History Room at the library.

Adjourned at 8:45pm

Submitted by Bob LaPree