

# Hopkinton/Webster Recycling Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### July 8, 2009

*(These minutes are unofficial until approved at the August 12th meeting)*

**Present:** Debbie Augustine, Katherine Mitchell, Bob LaPree, Mary Leadbeater, Sally Embley, Gini Haines, Denis Goddard

Public in attendance – Harrison Harb

Meeting called to order at 6:40pm

Minutes approved with corrections

**New Business** - Harrison Harb, an employee of the Hopkinton/Webster Transfer Station, answered questions from members of the committee regarding the recycling operations and suggestions for ways to improve it. He explained that better signs and samples of what can and can't be recycled would help the recyclers and the staff in getting the proper items where they belong. He said the biggest complaint of recyclers is the problem of knowing which #1 plastics can't be recycled – such as joint compound buckets.

Bob reported on the Landfill Committee meeting. Explaining the progress Steve Cough is making in establishing a #5 plastics recycling option. Steve was asked by Landfill Committee members to provide basic specifications for a swap shop building as well as his preferred location for it. He indicated that he would like the building's design and size to allow for reuse if it is no longer needed for a swap shop. Bob also related a conversation he had with a Greenfield transfer station employee who said it is important to supervise the items being left at the swap shop to avoid inappropriate, dangerous and broken items being left. It appears there will be a need to have some kind of staffing arrangement, either part a time worker or volunteers and have the swap shop open for limited hours.

The committee discussed the printing and placement of "eco-signs" around town to encourage residents to recycle.

Denis volunteered to write a script for a telephone survey of residents regarding their participation and needs for the present voluntary recycling program. He also noted that the committee can take lessons from Concord's implementation of their Pay as You Throw program. Members decided that it would be good to encourage parents to bring their children to the recycling workshop tentatively planned by St. Andrews Church.

**Old Business** – The committee discussed plans for renewing the campaign to get PAYT passed at the 2010 Town Meeting, with an emphasis in getting out the vote and providing informational forums as well as articles for the newspapers. When the #5 plastics recycling program begins the committee should make an effort to publicize it with letters to the editor and news releases.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

Next meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup> in the Local History Room of the Town Library.

Submitted by Bob LaPree

