

Solid Waste and Recycling Committee (SWRC) Minutes **DRAFT**

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

5:30 to 7:15PM at Ladd Rec Center in Wayne 26 Gott Road

Eric Dyer is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88197421195?pwd=bVF6UUFNWt6MDFQeG5NR2xBZlhrQT09>

Meeting ID: 881 9742 1195

Attending: Aaron Chrostowsky, Eric Dyer, Kellie Hess, Kim King, Karen Peterson, Bob Weimont, Kathryn Mills Woodsum

1. Roll call and determination of quorum.
2. Review of minutes from April 12, 2023 (*attached*) Discussion and motion to approve by Kim King, seconded by Bob Weimont. Vote 4-0.
3. Oral and written communications.
 - a. Readfield Transfer Station Manager report: Karen and Eric
 - i. General operations are going well. A few days saw an overflow of MSW. Recycling is good. Waste Management has a new dispatch system.
 - ii. No recent changes were noted.
 - iii. Quarterly financial review: April – June 2023 and Fiscal Year 2023
 1. Wages are currently over budget. We used some maintenance employees to fill in staff absences with overtime hours along with some hourly employees. We have hired a three-quarters time person and think this will alleviate the need for overtime.
 2. The compost line is from grant revenue.
 3. Single Sort Recycling billing has changed and Tipping and Hauling costs have increased.
 4. Equipment Operations and Maintenance is over budget, primarily for the new MSW compactor.
 - b. Other:
 - i. Eric will be negotiating a new contract with ecomaine soon.
 - ii. The Transfer Station is now set up as a separate enterprise in the accounting system in Readfield. This does not functionally change anything but makes for a cleaner reporting structure.
4. No members of the public were present.
5. Unfinished business. (40 min.)
 - a. Equipment replacement timeline was distributed. We discussed creating an overlapping debt clause to allow for a major purchase to occur. Decided to ask the Readfield Select Board to authorize an article for the June 2024 town meeting warrant for work to occur in fiscal year 2025. The proposal is for a design build in 2025 with the work to be completed in fiscal year 2026. Exactly what to be included will be discussed and determined this year.
 - b. Accommodations for senior citizens discussion.

- i. Transfer Station Manager presented the current layout of the station and discussion focused around the various suggestions made to accommodate residents in an accessible area. It was concluded that the physical space limitations will not safely allow for a separate area. The discussion then turned to what can be done and we decided to expand the current policy of help to residents. The concern had been what was allowable by contract and insurance requirements for employees to do. The concerns are for safety of the employees from items contained in bags and the weight of bags.
 - 1. Decision to have residents who need assistance to ask the attendant at the booth for help. Displaying a Disabled Placard is helpful but not required.
 - 2. Residents will be directed where to park, as usual, and a staff member will remove bagged materials weighing less than 20 pounds from the vehicle. This is only for MSW and Recycling.
 - 3. If residents do not need help can ask to be directed to the closest spot to the bins to empty materials independently.
 - c. Report out on Food Composting event.
 - i. The event went well, about 25 folks attended. Folks are adding to the food compost space as well as the yard waste piles. Finished compost is being used by residents.
 - d. Report out on HHW Collection event.
 - i. The event was a success. We had 33 residents from Fayette, 27 from Wayne, 33 from Mt. Vernon, 55 from Readfield and 20 from Belgrade. Total of 168. We could handle 6 residents per town per time slot based on the efficiency of this year's event. Working with EPI is very easy and something we can continue to coordinate on our own.
 - ii. We discussed what materials should be accepted at this event in the future and decided that materials should be consistent year-round; either they incur a charge or are free, but this event will be only for hazardous household waste. Therefore, no electronics, paint or demo at the event. Staples does take a long list of items at no charge; we should advertise that.
6. New business. (15 min.)
 - a. Vehicle Stickers. Need to order new stickers. Review sticker use. The Solid Waste Ordinance says to 'display' the sticker; discuss changing to 'affix sticker to windshield.'
 - i. B. Use of the Readfield Recycling and Transfer Station
 - 1. The Readfield Recycling and Transfer Station is operated for the benefit of Readfield residents (year-round and seasonal). All individuals with residential status shall have a valid "Transfer Station Permit", which must be displayed to gain access to the Readfield Recycling and Transfer Station to deposit acceptable waste generated within Readfield.
 - ii. Motion made to accept this change to read as follows, and to immediately change the practice, and to have the Readfield Select Board to authorize an article for the June 2024 town meeting warrant to reflect this change.
 - 1. The Readfield Recycling and Transfer Station is operated for the benefit of Readfield residents (year-round and seasonal). All individuals with residential status shall have a valid "Transfer Station Permit Sticker", which must be affixed to the vehicle windshield to gain access to the Readfield

Recycling and Transfer Station to deposit acceptable waste generated within Readfield.

2. The town representatives agreed that the new stickers will be color coded by town: Fayette: green, Readfield: Red and Wayne: Blue.
 - b. Brush fees. Brush disposal conditions have changed in recent times. We used to have the brush ground into chips which were then purchased from us, then it changed to only taking the chips, and now we are being charged for the chips. It is a fairly significant cost and we need to discuss if this should remain a service provided for through general tax assessments or if it should be categorized as a fee paid service, similar to construction debris, appliances with freon, tires, etc., and what fee structure would be appropriate.
 - i. This was discussed and the conclusion reached that we should keep the collection of brush as a service offered as part of the taxes collected. The cost is approximately \$1,000 for setup of the equipment and \$1,000 additional to ship and dispose of the materials. Based on the quantity and cost this is a good decision.
7. Set next agenda. (2 min.)
- a. Reminder we meet on the second Wednesday now in January, April, July & October.
 - i. Wednesday October 11, 2023 at Fayette (Is there a meeting space available?)
 1. Other
 - ii. Wednesday January 10, 2024 at Readfield Town Office
 1. Other

8. Adjournment.

Attachments: Minutes from April 12, 2023 including addendum