

Solid Waste and Recycling Committee (SWRC) Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

5:30 to 6:45PM at the Readfield Transfer Station

1. Roll call and determination of quorum.

Present: Eric Dyer via Zoom, Kim King, Karen Peterson, Kathryn Mills Woodsum

No quorum.

2. Review of minutes from April 21, 2021.

- a. Did not review due to no quorum. Put on next meeting agenda.

3. Oral and written communications.

a. Readfield Transfer Station Manager report: Eric and Karen

i. General operations: Report for year:

- 1. Staff is great! Have to use Readfield town maintenance for filling staff absences. Plant and equipment are doing well. New MSW compactor and new backhoe. Grounds need more work.

ii. Recent changes: Covid-19 operation notes.

- 1. No updates.

iii. Quarterly financial review: Apr – June 2021 and total fiscal year 2021

- 1. Every thing is going well.
- 2. We had a 1% surplus for the year. Fayette and Wayne see a reduction throughout the year in their charges rather than an adjustment at year end.
- 3. Density is up with recycling, primarily collecting cardboard materials. Volumes are up and thus tipping and hauling fees are up. We got a check from ecomaine for July recycling! (This is for FY 2022.)

iv. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) recap including what towns to include in the future

- 1. Readfield was 55% of volume.
- 2. Karen says the day was a huge success!
- 3. Karen collected 6 gaylords of paint and 8 gaylords of electronic waste. She would like us to better promote collecting these items all year long.

v. Composting update

- 1. Need signs at the TS to get buckets here and to promote interest.
- 2. Need to smooth out the rinse area to prevent injuries or get a long hose and place next to the collection bin where the ground is smooth.
- 3. May place the food compost area nearer to the collection bin, or not. Do we need to keep the food compost separate from the yard waste compost?
- 4. Odor control mitigation.
- 5. Just getting the kinks worked out this year and look to be fully operational prior to next spring.

b. Other, if any.

4. Members of the public may address the SWRC on issues pertinent to the agenda.

- a. No public present.

5. Unfinished business.

a. Discuss progress on implementing electronic payments at the Transfer Station.

- i. This will be set up for training in September and customer use by end of month.

6. New business.

- a. Elect Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary for fiscal year 2022
 - i. No quorum. Put on next meeting agenda.
- b. Consider the roll-back of Electronic Item fees: no charge to town for disposing of.
 - i. No fees any longer for CFL, fluorescent tubes, TV, CRT, Monitor, Printer. We should post the list of no-charge items.
- c. Transfer Station Manager assignment and duties shift: Karen Peterson is now the Manager and sharing duties with Eric in the interim transfer phase.
 - i. We discussed the shifting of duties and the ideas from Eric and Karen. There is a need to replace the hours Karen spends doing administrative duties with another attendant. There is really a need for a full-time summer employee to handle staff vacation and sick time, and to manage the increased traffic flow and increased volume during the summer months. Maybe Readfield can consider using a multi-position employee for this purpose.
- d. Operational improvements including bin location changes, fee collection for waste wood, use of brush pile
 - i. Shingles: These can be recycled but our volume has dropped drastically and it is not cost effective or space efficient to do so any longer. Shingles now go in the demo bin.
 - ii. Demolition Debris: The volume has drastically increased over the past year. We now have two bins next to each other: one to be filled and sent for delivery while the second is being filled. This will save on hauling costs as we will always be sending full bins now.
 - iii. Wood Pile: This was known as clean wood waste. The issue was that it was not clean; folks were placing various items in the pile that were not allowed such as cement blocks, bricks, rocks, and furniture. Also, the cost for removing this debris has risen to be greater than placing in the demo bin due to the cost of processing the pile and then hauling it as demo debris. Now we save the cost of processing the pile. This debris is used as landfill cover in Norridgewock.
 - iv. Brush: This is now brush only with no stumps or pieces larger than 8" diameter. A new set of guidelines was issued and posted on the website. Dumping is only after approval of the onsite attendant. This material is chipped at no cost and the contractor takes the materials.
 - v. Metal: The bin has been moved to the far side of the attendant building, near to the MSW bin.
 - vi. Bottles and Cans: Collection was halted due to the collection trailer being full. It has been difficult to find a redemption center willing to take our bags. Karen is working on finding a site to work with and resuming collection. All proceeds go to the Readfield Home Heating Assistance Fund. There are collection sites in Wayne and possibly in Fayette where the funds stay in their towns.
 - vii. Dog treats: The question was raised about who provides these treats. It has been resident or employee donation. It was the opinion of SWRC members present that the TS should fund these treats as a public service promoting goodwill at the TS.
- e. Guided tour of facilities by Karen Peterson
 - i. Karen gave a tour of the brush, wood and compost piles and provided much of the details stated in this report during this time. Thanks to Karen for all she is doing.

7. Set next agenda. (2 min.)

- a. Future scheduled meetings: Does Fayette or Wayne wish to host in person meetings yet?

- b. Reminder we meet on the second Wednesday of a month now.
 - i. Wednesday October 13, 2021 at Readfield Town Office
 - 1. Composting update
 - 2. Electronic Payments update
 - 3. Consider holding SWRC meetings in Fayette and Wayne again.
 - 4. Consider minutes of April SWRC meeting.
 - 5. Elect Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary for fiscal year 2022
 - 6. Consider funding a summer employee for the FY 2022 and beyond
 - 7. Consider funding dog treats
 - 8. Plan for 2022 HHHW event:
 - a. EPI would like to tally units and not have the resident and/or town do that. That way they can provide accurate unit totals and costs by town. They would do this while unloading the materials from vehicles.
 - b. Need better advertising for the type of materials to bring.
 - c. Consider having a Business Service Day with set-up costs covered by the towns. Businesses would pay the costs of disposal of their materials but would have a local site to bring materials to and be cost effective for them, which would support collection of materials from sites in towns.
 - ii. Wednesday January 12, 2021 at Readfield Town Office
 - 1. Composting update
 - 2. Electronic Payments update
 - 3. Carry over to a future date a discussion on holding composting events and school visit arrangements with Liza Bitterman from ecomaine, due to Covid-19 pandemic.
 - 4. Other

8. Adjournment at 6:45

Minutes drafted by: Kathryn Mills Woodsum