

## Solid Waste and Recycling Committee (SWRC) Minutes

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

**5:30 to 7PM** at the Readfield Town Office Eric Dyer is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

### 1. Roll call and determination of quorum

Present: Committee members: Jon Beekman, Amy Black, Aaron Chrostowsky, Eric Dyer, Kellie Hess, Kim King, Karen Peterson, Mark Robinson, Nate Rudy, Kathryn Mills Woodsum

Public: Al Parks, Bunny Parks

### 2. Accept minutes from April 21, 2021; motion by Amy, Second by Kelli, Vote: Unanimous.

Accept minutes from August 11, 2021; motion by Kathryn, Second by Kim, Vote: Unanimous.

### 3. Oral and written communications.

#### a. Readfield Transfer Station Manager report: Eric and Karen

##### i. General operations

1. We had a fire in the MSW Compactor. Not certain of the cause but may have been hot ashes placed in the bin. We sent out a reminder to Readfield, Fayette and Wayne about proper materials being placed in the bin. We need new covers for the ash cans.
2. Replacing 2 entry doors on the buildings
3. Short staffed all quarter due to illness, vacation, injury. We really need a fulltime seasonal position for our summer season. Labor shortage is hitting home.
4. Summer hours are very popular but should stay only for summer season.
5. HHHW event was veery successful and efficient. Sunday was a much better day for traffic flow.
6. Swap Shop is closed until the spring of 2022. We could do a DEP grant and move to where the compost bin currently is.
7. Brush pile and clean wood pile changes remain in place and are working well. Al Parks noted that Steve McGee will take stumps for a fee.
8. Demo bins: We have 2 now and that is working much better for drop off and for bin change outs.
9. E-Waste fees have been eliminated for lamps and bulbs

##### ii. Recent changes: Covid-19 operation notes

1. Senior hours remain in place on Thursdays from 10 until 2 with all stalls open.

##### iii. Quarterly financial review: July – September 2021

1. We are at 33% for recycling, 16% for metal, 24% overall expenses, 39% overall revenue. This is for 25% of the year. We are in good shape financially.
2. Wage update. The Town of Readfield is raising wages \$2/hour for hourly employees effective through June 30, 2022. This is funded with town ARPA funds. The Select Board is asking the Budget Committee to fund this permanently in the next town budget.

4. Members of the public may address the SWRC on issues pertinent to the agenda.
  - a. The Parks asked that we remind employees to address the public appropriately and respectfully. Also, they have been told that Blue Rhino will accept propane tanks at no cost.
5. Unfinished business.
  - a. Electronic payments at the Transfer Station
    - i. We have all the equipment and need to install it and train staff. This will occur in November. There will be a minimum payment amount.
  - b. Composting update
    - i. 200 plastic food scrap buckets given out with pledges
    - ii. 50 wire trap style home bins given out during informational presentations
    - iii. We need to schedule events in Fayette & Wayne. Could do Every Day Direct Mailings. Looking for an increase in participation.
    - iv. Adjuncts needed are manure; we have a good supply of sawdust
    - v. Large collection bin was donated to Farmington (it was purchased with grant funds and could not be sold). We will get a new bin soon.
    - vi. Partnerships: Good with DEP, Mark King is very helpful; not as good with the Mitchell Institute; they had ideas but few products or assistance.
6. New business. (50 min.)
  - a. Elect Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary for fiscal year 2022
    - i. Chair: Kathryn; Vice-Chair: Jon; Secretary: Kim
  - b. Fayette and Wayne are not ready to host meetings for us yet.
  - c. Consider funding a summer employee for the FY 2022 and beyond.
    - i. Discussed and agreed that we should do this for the 12 weeks from Memorial Day through Labor Day. There could be funding or interns available through the MMA Home Town careers program.
  - d. Consider funding dog treats
    - i. We agreed this will be in the budget. Employees should only hand to owners and not directly to animals.
  - e. Consider the roll-back of Electronic Item fees: no charge to town for disposing of
  - f. Plan for 2022 HHHW event:
    - i. 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.
    - ii. Need better advertising for the type of materials to bring.
    - iii. 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.
7. Set next agenda.
  - a. Reminder we meet on the second Wednesday of a month now.
    - i. 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
- ii. Wednesday April 13, 2021 at Readfield Town Office
  1. Composting update
  2. Other

8. Adjourned at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted by Kathryn Mills Woodsum.

Approved 1/12/2022