

SWRC MINUTES

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

5:30 – 7:00 pm @ Readfield Town Office

Attendees: Eric Dyer, Mark Robinson, Aaron Chrostowsky, Kathryn Woodsum, Stephanie Haines, Bob Weimont, Mary Farnham, Jon Beekman and Michael Hicks.

1. Roll Call and determination of quorum;

A quorum was determined.

2. New Business.

a. Special Meeting Purpose: *Eric described the purpose of this Special Meeting being called was to address the dramatic changes in the recycling market and the subsequent changes in our cost structure. This will require changes in our education and outreach efforts. Some members of the board and Transfer Station staff attended a recent training at EcoMaine which was very informative as to the issues and challenges we are facing.*

b. Video Conference Call with Lissa Bitterman: *Lissa gave us a brief historical background of how we got where we are today with recyclable, especially Plastics and Paper. This has caused EcoMaine to begin to assess additional costs (penalties) for loads that contain contaminants (material not accepted as recyclables).*

- Lissa was asked what the most prevalent issues were that caused contamination to the loads. Plastic bags **of all sort**, as well as various MSW items being mixed in with the loads.*
- A question was posed as to any financial benefits available if we were to pre-sort our recyclables. She explained that their facility is not set up for this and they do not have the storage space available, they are set up for single sort.*
- She was requested to provide the cost if we were to deliver all recyclables as MSW. While this option is not being considered, the numbers would be useful for comparison. Lissa will forward figures to Eric.*
- Lissa advised that Jay has started to have customers dump out their recyclables for inspection prior to acceptance.*
- As this issue has only come front and center in the last couple of weeks EcoMaine has not developed a specific plan yet to address this issue, beyond the educational information they have already provided. Recommendations have also not yet been developed.*
- Lissa advised that if the public simply recycled those items listed in the Do's section of their literature that this would capture 80% of recyclables.*
- The Readfield Transfer Station overall, has done well with their recyclables and are in the top 10%.*

c. Discussion/Determinations: *Several options to address this issue were discussed and the following determinations made:*

- It was agreed by all that it is not the boards desire or goal to discontinue its recycling program.*
- The Town's next tax mailing will contain an insert that will advise customers of the issues involved and provide information that will assist them in complying with recycling process. Matt Grondin of EcoMaine could be contacted to assist in messaging needed in the insert flyer.*

- *Attempts will be made to have additional personnel at the Transfer Station during high volume hours in the form of minimum wage staff, volunteers, community service workers, etc. to pass out informational flyers, speak with patrons and possibly inspect their recyclables to point out any issues noted. This would require the building of a special table to allow for a inspection.*
 - *Eric will work on part-time employment and ensuring current staff are engaging patrons. He will ensure a table is built.*
 - *Mark will look into volunteers.*
 - *Aaron will make contacts for community service workers.*
- *Residents will be made aware of this inspection prior to implementation through communications from the respective towns.*
- *Safety training/ equipment would be provided and perhaps some training by EcoMaine.*
- *A Demo-Table will be made to provide patrons with visual examples of the Do's and Don'ts.*
- *Strategies will need to be developed for haulers.*
 - *They will be provided flyers that they can send customers with their billing.*
- *Recycling bins will be purchased and made available for patrons.*

8. Set next agenda

Future SWRC Meetings- 3rd Wednesday

July 11, 2018 5:30 pm Readfield Town Office

9. Adjournment. 7:08 pm

Respectfully submitted: Michael J. Hicks on May 31, 2018.