

Transfer Station and Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes

Town Hall – Chenery Room

February 11, 2019

PRESENT: Chairman Megan Sullivan, Barbara Meyer, Andrea Costello, Rick Fink, Annette Wells, and Nancy Irwin

Also present: Robert Kennedy Jr., Mary Pat McSharry, and Cheryl Dunlea

Megan Sullivan called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM.

The minutes for January were approved with revisions to clarify that Shaw's is “on board” for the direction the Town takes regarding plastic bags at checkout and that Shaw's will continue to collect plastic bags for recycling.

Revolving Fund

There is about \$6500 in the Revolving Fund.

SWAP

The Swap is hoping to find an intern to assist this summer. Julie Marto is advertising for this volunteer in the Patch. It is a part-time position and more than one person could share the responsibility. Discussion of how to promote the position included suggestions that the position be posted at local colleges (e.g., Dean), the MHS Environmental Club and at Stony Brook Audubon. Annette pointed out FB, Twitter and Instagram as other means to get the request/offer out.

The 2019 Swap schedule is set as May – September. The last day will likely be the last Saturday in September. The volunteer crew to take down the tents is available on Saturdays only. There was some discussion as to whether items should be available to acquire on the take-down day.

Bobby suggested that the plan for getting materials for the Swap area could be for Nancy or Mary Pat to select items at Will's and have them held behind the counter for Jean or Bobby to pick up.

Plastic Reduction Initiative Update

The proposed bylaw is in the upcoming warrant for Town Meeting on April 29th. TSARC is sponsoring the bylaw, and the Selectmen will be approached about co-sponsoring at a meeting at the end of February.

The Plastic Reduction Initiative has the website medfieldplasticreduction.org. They are planning community forums in March and April and are seeking sponsors for bags at various events. They are also looking for other fund-raising opportunities. By Friday (2/15) the committee expects to finish canvassing about the initiative. They will have visited every store, restaurant and medical and dental offices. In general, smaller stores are concerned about the expense, but enthusiastic about the concept.

There is legislation at the State House for a state wide plastic bag ban. Andy mentioned that local residents including Eve Potts had convinced state representative Denise Garlik to support the bill.

Organics

Our contract for Organics collection allows us to collect twice the amount of food waste that we are currently. Because we are only half-filling our bins, the cost for organics is currently twice the cost of trash. Note that the organics collection can take food waste (meat, fish, bones...) that cannot be composted in backyard composters because it is composted in a farm, turned regularly (think

decomposing animals—worms, insects,...as well as lignin), and ultimately (other than in winter) reaching higher temperatures than backyard composters. Farms used to need added compost (Someone mentioned that Cassidy in Dover used to go door-to-door to collect for a pig farm), but the State mandate that high volume generators of food waste use commercial facilities to divert food waste from trash has created a supply of food waste for farms resulting in (higher) costs for getting food waste transported commercially to be composted.

Public Space Recycling

DPW is waiting until spring to order the bins.

Mattress Recycling Program

DPW and the Revolving account will share the cost of continuing the mattress collection (about \$700/month) for a couple of months while a fee mechanism is finalized.

Planning for New TS Stickers

Underpinning all discussion of a fee for new stickers are several considerations—the costs of recycling and trash disposal are in flux and have risen greatly ($x2^+$) and continue to rise; private curbside collection costs \$300-450 a year; price increases could divert some of TS users to private haulers (and reduce the recycling/composting offered at the Transfer Station). The cost to operate the Transfer Station is on the Town tax levy, and not covered by the sticker fees collected; sticker fees go to the Town, not directly to Transfer Station operations. Stickers were originally introduced to identify cars as originating in Medfield, and the nominal fee was not aligned with costs of the Transfer Station. The sticker fee 2015-2017 was \$50/2 years=\$25/yr; for 2017-2019, \$75/2yr.=\$37.50/yr.; one member expressed concern if we were to double the fee of a sticker and argued for education/outreach to explain higher fees. Cost increases alone for recycling are likely to amount to \$17/sticker/yr. We agreed to propose \$50/yr for stickers...it may be an annual sticker, but Bobby voiced that it might be wise, while getting the kinks out of a new system, to stick with a 2-year sticker (which would then be \$100/2 yr.). Note: ours is only a recommendation. The Board of Selectmen sets fees for the Town, also incorporating a recommendation from the Warrant Committee.

Other issues in sticker fee consideration--Converting to online sticker registration will involve an unknown cost to the Town for handling credit cards. If we are going to move toward having 2 “gate-keepers” to supervise payment for mattresses and bulky items there would be a projected annual cost of \$26,000 (spread out over 3400 stickers amounts to \$7.65/sticker/yr)...this would not be budgeted for FY'20 since it is not an item on the upcoming warrant.

We also discussed what would go into the sticker mail-out. The Transfer Station brochure needs to be updated (especially, waste ban items; and a review of the policy and regulations pages). Megan suggested that a legal size paper may be needed. Andy is working on a composting handout. Our website (which is a copy of the brochure) is text-heavy...Wellesley has a graphic sheet.

Rick suggested that the sticker registration/or website information could have QR codes for people to click for tips and policy regulations. People could opt in to receive a printed copy of the brochure/or other materials. Possibly we might want to consider offering to sell a magnetic ('fridge) piece (expensive to mail). Rick suggested that Brothers might be interested in offering a bag with recycling/composting information and a magnet.

Competitive Bidding no new information

Cost Reduction Alternatives no new information

Operational and Financial Information scattered information

Budget—next year issues/Warrant Committee no new information

PR/Communications Plan

Constant Contact can arrange a remote demonstration for us if we sign up for an initial month. For an account with 4000 email addresses the charge would be \$71/month (\$852/yr). There was the question of whether Constant Contact would accept a purchase order from the Town. An account would allow unlimited messages and offers links, multi-page spreads and pictures. The \$852 was approved as a revolving account expenditure if we can make it work.

Cheryl suggested that we should be reaching out to schools with information from TSARC and that Sue Cowell at the High School would be a good tie-in for nutrition and composting. She will investigate this.

Committee Tasks Needing Committee Member Volunteers

Megan outlined projects that the committee is interested in working on but need members to help with.

- 1) Website Recommendations---Town has a website—needs site map/recommended text etc.
- 2) Survey Topics/Questions on Survey Monkey to Accompany New TS Stickers.
 - Who can help design this?
 - Previous surveys gave us information that people are willing to pay for mattress disposal, and that people wanted exploration of additional hours for the Transfer Station
- 3) Organics Brochure (Andy and Cheryl will work on this)
- 4) Organics Program TLC – need someone to advocate for and publicize this program
- 5) Monthly Financials Report – take financial info from town and turn it into operating report
- 6) Update TS Brochure—Recycling Guidelines, etc. (Megan and Cheryl)
- 7) Minutes (Barb has been doing)
- 8) Facebook Updates—smart weekly recycling tips (Rick)
- 9) Publicity—ongoing outreach, events, etc. Possibly Constant Contact
- 10) Medfield Green Month—run it and coordinate all parts (vendors, publicity....)
- 11) Electronics Recycling Information...flyer where dispose of items....alternatives (e.g., Best Buy)
- 12) SWAP – (Nancy and Mary Pat McSharry)
- 13) Logo (Andy & Annette)

Professional Development Opportunities & Report

- Textile Webinar—Megan noted that there are ready-to-go PR materials on textile recycling
- SWANApalooza (“Solid Waste Association of North America)--four days in Boston end February. Nancy intends to share the ticket she won at last year’s Mass Recycle Conference n with Bobby.
- Mass Recycle Conference Mon., March 25 in Framingham...TSARC will send anyone who wants to go (\$100 pp to be paid by the Revolving Fund)

Next Meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 4, 2019 at 9:00.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30.