

ARSWC Minutes 9/17/20

Attending: Katie Smith, Ros Arienti, Jon Biehler, Paul Schlein, Bill Nickerson, John Hinds, Roz McLean

Katie would like to step down as chair of the committee. Suggestion: co-chairs, with others on the committee taking on jobs that Katie now handles. She will send out a list of responsibilities. John would be willing to be the committee contact person for the Town.

Katie will do final edit of August minutes and send out to the committee for approval.

Rogers Contract

Discussion with Select Board re contract with Rogers for hauling solid waste and recycling. The ARSWC would like to add an opt-out clause due to recent history of a leaking truck that presents an environmental hazard to the Town. Select Board not in favor of changing haulers at this time but Walter Briggs called Craig about amending the contract. Craig agreed to put in a 60 day opt-out clause with no stipulations. Committee would make the case to the Select Board should we feel the need to discontinue the contract before next summer.

Research into alternative avenues for our waste and recycling

Request to Casella re quote for hauling Arrowsic Trash and Recycling. They said they are currently under pressure with Covid 19 related issues and have not yet responded.

Katie will inform Riverside of the Town's decision not to change haulers at this time. We appreciated their professionalism but the cost is a 43% increase over what we pay now. It is in the best interest of the Town to keep costs as low as possible if we want to continue to recycle. Casella is recycling or reusing everything we send. Cost per ton for recycling has decreased from \$135/ton-\$120/ton since January, with their variable rate formula.

Committee research into Ecomaine was encouraged by the interest of Bill Savedoff, former Select Person. We will continue to research the most eco-friendly, and financially viable process available for our solid waste and recycling. Ecomaine is not an option as long as Rogers is our hauler. Too far for Rogers to go. There are small haulers around, but Riverside is the only one who would do curbside pick-up.

Casella and Ecomaine comparison has not been done to date. Emissions plus landfilling vs. incinerator. Ecomaine recycles milk and aseptic containers. Casella does not. Ecomaine has good education and is more sustainable but messaging about what is recyclable, ie. plastic bags, not consistent. The research to date will be put into a single document to keep for further reference.

Bulky Items Pick-up

Delayed while new contract was finalized. Katie will ask Craig about making it a town-wide event vs. a call-per-pick-up with individual homeowners. Need a new person to liaison with Craig.

Shed Report

John will rewrite manual draft. Ros or Roz will type up.

Steady stream of batteries. One box ready to ship. 15# left over for next time.

Thank you to Bill for new sign on the door.

Shed has new coat of paint by Mark Geiger. Thank you to Paul for door repair, checked and okayed by Malcolm Persen, Town Properties Committee chair.

Resident Calls

None in weeks. Katie has had a few conversations re extra bags of trash and recycling left early in Sept. at Stone Tree Rd. when we stopped weekly pick ups. Some bags were removed by residents, and the remainder by Craig, whom Katie asked to do a special pick-up. Suggestion that we give added notice to Town when we are switching over from weekly to bi-weekly pick-up, on the Thursday before the no-trash day. Also, put out notification on old sign board at the Bridge. *Put on agenda for October to discuss leaving bi-weekly pick up all year. Savings of about \$3500/year without weekly pick-ups June-Aug.

Left Behind Slips

Bill made and left in the Shed for Craig, who picked them up. Should see them out next week. It's contractual that he not pick up oversized or inappropriate items.

Article re oil and plastics manufacturers' false promises about recyclability of plastics. Instead they have been going in the landfills and into the soil, as well as the ocean. Plastics cannot be recycled indefinitely. Paul will send article to Casella for Erica's response. She was going to send us a document about where all the recycling goes. Ask about that too. We may want to send the article to Ecomaine as well for their response.

Article from John about China cracking down internally on plastics.

Next Meeting

October 15, 2020

Meeting adjourned, 6:33PM

Respectfully submitted,
Roz McLean