

ASWRC August 2016 Meeting Notes

Date: 8/15/16

Attendance: Jon Biehler, Roz McLean, Paul Schlein

June Minutes:

It was assumed that there were no corrections, but Katie would be consulted to double-check before or at the next meeting.

Bulky Items Pickup:

Paul explained that Craig Rogers said the only week that would work before Labor Day would be August 15, so the notice had to go out before the meeting.

An early summer pickup would be considered for next year, in addition to Labor Day. Rogers would be consulted in advance to review the process.

Trash Schedule Change:

Notice would be sent to the Town on Monday, August 29, announcing the return to biweekly trash pickup after September 2.

Jon raised the question that had come up before of going to biweekly pickup for trash, along with recycling, year-round. Paul said anytime this had come up in discussion, either in the Committee or with town residents, it was met with significant resistance, with the reasons stated that were that trash needs to be picked up more frequently in the warm summer months, due to spoilage, odors, animals, etc. *Paul would review this with Craig Rogers, to see what the cost reduction would be.

Casella/Pine Tree Fee Increase:

Roz reported that the most recent invoice from Casella shows what is evidently a \$3.00/ton increase for recycling. This would be in keeping with our contract, but there was no notice of the change. So far, there is no increase in the trash fee. During the meeting, Paul e-mailed Karen McNaughton at Casella to ask for verification and additional information.

Casella Open House:

Casella will be holding an open house for their recycling facility in Lewiston on Monday, September 19. The Committee has been interested in touring this facility and this will be an excellent opportunity to do so. The hope is that seeing the entire process will provide helpful insights into how things work that can translate into improvements at the Town level.

*Paul will let the Select Board know about this event to see if they might be interested in attending.

Town "Sand Lot":

Lisa Holley had contacted Paul to see if the ASWRC had ever considered using the so-called sand lot to locate its recycling facility and also have a community compost bin. The Select Board had asked Lisa to determine a price for the lot, as the Town was in the process of selling it. Paul replied that, quite some time ago, as a member of the Town Land Committee, the ASWRC had considered that location, but a much larger piece of property was purchased by the Town for multiple purposes, including recycling. Lisa later e-mailed to say it had already been sold. *Paul would contact Lisa to clarify exactly what the status of the lot was.

Spreadsheets:

This item was tabled until the next meeting as Roz and Ros hadn't met yet to work on this.

Calculating Recycling/Trash on a Per Capita Basis:

Jon suggested that determining and using a per capita figure for how much trash/recycling material Arrowsic is producing might provide a more true measure of how the Town is doing compared to other towns, states, and/or Western countries. It might show us that we are on the right track or that the bar

should be raised a bit. To come up with a per capita figure, the Committee would need an accurate population number for Arrowsic; the best source for this would need to be identified. *Paul thought that Woolwich uses a per capita figure in monitoring their recycling/trash, and would contact their committee to discuss this with them.

Along these lines, Jon also asked how we could determine what a reasonable level of recycling should be, i.e., a target percentage that the Town should be working toward. This would need further discussion and research.

2017 HHW Workshop:

At the next meeting, the Committee would begin more detailed discussion and planning on organizing a Town workshop on household hazardous waste for next April.

Recycling Shed:

Roz said she ordered two more prepaid battery boxes for regular (non-rechargeable) battery recycling. Jon said we are now paying to recycle certain electronic items at the Bath Landfill, but he has been unable to get a list of which items do incur charges. *Paul said he couldn't get a list either and that he would contact Lee Leiner in Bath and also West Bath to see if lists can be obtained.

Being able to keep scrap metal somewhere outside the shed would be very helpful. *Paul said he would contact Sukey again to see if the Select Board has had a chance to discuss use of the storage cabinet outside the Town Hall for scrap metal.

Arrow Article:

The recycling article for the September *Arrow* would include Katie's excellent writeup on safe alternatives to household cleaners, the notice sent to the Town detailing concerns brought up by Craig Rogers, and a reminder that the pickup schedule will return to biweekly trash pickup after September 2. A copy of the schedule would also be included.

Town Website Update:

This item was tabled until the next meeting, when Ros could provide an update.

New Committee Members:

It was generally agreed that at least one more member would be helpful.

ASWRC Task List:

In conjunction with the above, Paul presented a list of Committee tasks that he had put together to send to prospective members. This could give anyone thinking about joining the Committee a good idea of what they might be doing. *Paul would also send this list to the Select Board for reference.

Recycling Brochure:

With about 30 copies of the recycling brochure remaining and quite a few revisions to be made and new items to be added, discussion took place about starting work on a new edition of the brochure. Some research was still needed on the details of the new items. Changing the format from 8.5" x 11" to 8.5" x 14" would allow more room for new items and information. At a minimum, a new online version could be posted as soon as it was available, and new copies could be printed and distributed with next year's Annual Report, as was done for the first edition.

Next meeting:

Monday, September 19, at 6:00 PM, at the Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Schlein
ASWRC