

## Arrowsic Solid Waste/Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes—June 3, 2014

Committee members present: Ros Arienti, John Hinds, Roz McLean, Paul Schlein, Damian Sokol

[Before the meeting, John showed committee members a new type of compost container, made out of a breathable fabric. It holds 40 gallons, has a lifespan of about eight years, and costs about \$40.]

- The meeting convened at 4:00 PM at the Arrowsic Town Hall.
- New members, Paul and Ros, were welcomed and thanked for volunteering.
- John suggested starting by updating the Committee on activities from January 2014 to the present. He said that the amount of time he has been spending on recycling matters is having a significant impact on his landscaping business and personal life.
  - The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection and Roadside Cleanup had both just recently taken place.
    - HHW Collection
      - There were 12 participants this year.
      - In most years, John has consolidated various items from around town before delivering them to the collection center in Bath. Carloads were combined and grouped into collection units for greater efficiency and significantly reduced costs. However, John was not available this year, and the final collection tallies indicate that consolidation did not occur. This will likely result in the cost exceeding the \$600 budget allowance.
      - In recent years, Committee members have also worked in shifts to represent Arrowsic at the HHW collections.
      - John was asked about using his own vehicle to transport the various hazardous materials to Bath. He said he has hazardous waste training, knows how to pack and transport these substances, and his doing it is much preferred to untrained individuals transporting things to Bath themselves.
    - Roadside Cleanup
      - This is a joint effort with the Conservation Commission.
      - The ASWRC usually sorts out the materials at the Town Hall, but John wasn't available and everything, except tires, was hauled away as trash. John estimates that separating the recyclable materials from the trash can reduce the amount of trash disposed of by one-third or one-half.
        - Damian took 17 tires to VIP in Bath for disposal at a cost of \$2 each.
        - Sustainable and safe-handling practices for future years were discussed.
      - The Committee is reviewing how the materials from the cleanup have been managed, and will look for more efficient methods for separation and disposal.
  - The recycling shed was discussed next.
    - Batteries, electronics, and scrap metal are recycled in the shed. In addition, returnable bottles are left in a separate compartment for the Fire Department to pick up.
    - John expressed concern about how to handle unwanted hazardous materials. He said that, following various communications from the committee, most townspeople understand that things such as CFLs and fluorescent tubes do not go to the shed, but must be disposed of at the Bath Landfill or at stores that take them.
    - John said labeling and signs were adequate in the shed, but they could always be improved upon.
    - Once the battery boxes are full, they are shipped off to the company that recycles them for a cost of \$120 per box.
    - The lack of light in the shed was discussed. John said he has an LED closet-type light, with a motion sensor, that might work well in the shed. He would try to locate another one.

- It was also mentioned that when the shed roof is resingled (to match the new Town Hall roof), the roofers will also be enlarging the vents to allow more light to enter. It was still felt that some sort of electric light would be needed when the shed is accessed at night.
- Trash/Recycling
  - RC Rogers
    - John said, while communication about problems that occur on collection days could be better, relations were generally good with RC Rogers, and he had recently had a productive meeting with Craig Rogers to review a number of things.
  - Non-compliance
    - The fact that there are still a fair number of townspeople that do not recycle was discussed. Enforcing the Town's ordinance that requires recycling in order to get trash pickup was discussed, but this, while done on a number of occasions in the past, was considered the last resort. It was decided that communication and education were the key.
      - Ros offered to create a brochure and work to collect, reformat, and create new documents to include in an expanded recycling section on the Town website.
      - In conjunction with the above, everyone said they would see what materials they had and e-mail them to Ros.
  - Bulk Items
    - The question of how to handle bulk items was discussed. It was brought up that, in the past, the Town used to arrange special pickup days with RC Rogers, who would pick large items up at the homeowner's expense.
- Recycling vs. Trash Disposal, Rates and Costs
  - It was stated that current costs for recycling and trash disposal are \$5 and \$95 per ton, respectively, and the Arrowsic recycling rate is approaching 40%, but still short of the 50% level the State is looking for. Ways to increase the Town recycling rate were discussed.
    - Pay-per-bag: This failed a town vote in the past, and the Committee has considered it again, but John pointed out that towns that have done this still only get about a 3% increase, which doesn't seem to be worth the effort.
    - Once again, the consensus was that communication and education are the key.
- Town Meeting
  - The Committee will prepare a few remarks that Paul, as the new contact person, will deliver at Town Meeting on June 18.
- The Committee is considering having monthly meetings.
- The meeting concluded with John giving a tour of the Recycling Shed.
- The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.