

# Arrowsic Solid Waste/Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes—December 15, 2014

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

- The meeting convened at 6:00 PM at the Arrowsic Town Hall.

## ***New Recycling Brochure***

- Committee members reviewed the draft brochure, section by section, and line by line, making corrections and revisions along the way. \*Paul said he would make the changes and send back a new draft to the Committee for final review and approval. Once this has been done, the next step will be to have Craig Rogers review it and then the Selectmen.
- Following final approval, the brochure will be posted on the Town website, and an announcement e-mail will be sent out to the Town by February 1, 2015.
- Other plans, previously discussed at the November meeting, were reviewed, and are reprinted below from the November meeting minutes:
  - *...A blowup of the front of the brochure will also be printed, laminated, and posted on the recycling shed. \*Damian said he would take care of this.*
  - *To allow sufficient time for any feedback, questions, revisions, etc., from the Town, the brochure will not be printed until just before Town Meeting in June, when it can then be included as an insert in the Annual Town Report that is distributed to every household at no cost. \*This needs to be verified with the Selectmen. Copies would also be made available at the Town Hall and recycling shed.*
  - *How many to print, where to print it, the budget for printing, etc., are yet to be determined.*

## ***Spring Roadside Cleanup***

- The tentative date of Saturday, April 25, 2015, was chosen for the Spring Roadside Cleanup. This coincides with the Committee's intention to hold the cleanup on a Saturday that precedes the biweekly trash/recycling pickup, allowing for all the materials collected to be taken away with the regular trash and recycling, and not sit around any longer than necessary, thus avoiding additional cost.
- It was stressed, in order to avoid an overwhelming amount of work that the Committee could not handle, that this date has to be different than that of the area Household Hazardous Waste Collection held in Bath. \*Paul would check with Bath to see if a 2015 date had been set for this yet. (He will also inquire about the availability of compost bins at reduced cost through Bath.)
- \*Paul said he would review this date with the Conservation Commission at its meeting on Tuesday, December 16.

## ***2015 Recycling/Trash Schedule***

- It was noted that the 2015 recycling/trash pickup schedule was complete, approved by RC Rogers, and posted on the Town website. The Town was notified by e-mail.
- \*Damian said he would take care of laminating a copy of the schedule and posting it outside the recycling shed, plus putting a copy on the Town bulletin boards outside and inside the Town Hall.
- \*Paul said he would produce a reduced, "refrigerator-size" version of the schedule, for insertion in *The Arrow* and distribution at the Town Hall.

## ***Article for the Next Arrowsic Arrow***

- \*The next *Arrow* would include information on the following:
  - Announcement of the new recycling brochure
  - Date of the Roadside Cleanup, including a call for volunteers, and a date for a preparatory workshop to train volunteers (probably in March or April)
  - Date of the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day
  - Announcement of the recycling survey

### ***Recycling/Composting Survey***

- The draft survey was reviewed by the Committee in its entirety.
- In response to the excellent feedback received, and in order to elicit the best, most objective, and honest responses from survey-takers, some of the introductory text will be deleted, and some of the questions will be rearranged.
- Paul said he accidentally stumbled into a conversation about the survey with Lisa Skumatz, of Skumatz Economic Research Associates, Inc. (SERA), a research and consulting firm specializing in economic, policy, and evaluation analysis for solid waste and energy clients, located in Colorado. He received a postcard asking him to take an online recycling survey about wall thermostats containing mercury. When he called to ascertain the validity of the survey, he ended up speaking with the company principal, who explained that they had been hired by the Natural Resources Defense Council that was working with the State of Maine on this. When he explained that Arrowsic was also working on a recycling survey, but that, unfortunately, the Town had no funding to hire an expert to do it, Ms. Skumatz offered to review Arrowsic's survey at no expense—"Just to be sure the survey is as good as it can be." Paul sent her a PDF file of the survey, as well as a direct link to it online, and was waiting for a response.
- The plan is to finalize the survey, announce it in the February issue of *The Arrow*, and inform the Town through the e-mail list, leaving the survey open until the end of March. This will allow sufficient time to analyze the data received and use it to compile the annual solid waste/recycling statistics that are required by the State.

### ***Request for Information about the Town's Solid Waste Program from ecomaine***

- Paul received a call from an intern at ecomaine, who was compiling information about towns' solid waste and recycling programs.
- The Committee went through the questionnaire and filled in what it could. Most of the questions seemed to apply to towns with transfer stations, which Arrowsic does not have, so \*Paul said he would call the intern back to finalize the questionnaire over the phone.

### ***Meeting Schedule***

- Next meeting, Monday, January 19, 2015, 6:00 PM.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

\*Denotes action items

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