

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

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

- The meeting convened at 5:55 PM at the Arrowsic Town Hall.
- Paul handed out copies of several brochures that he picked up at the ecomaine and Casella booths at the Portland Greenfest held over the weekend. The brochures explained how single-stream recycling works.
 - One of the brochures indicated that large plastic items, such as chairs and laundry baskets, can be recycled. John said that might not be the case with RC Rogers. *Paul said he would check with Rogers to see if they do take these items.

New Brochure

- Ros said she hadn't had time to verify the listings in the brochure draft with information on outside companies, vendors, and towns that offer various recycling services. *Damian said he would work on this.
- The question of how to pay for copies of the brochure was asked, and what was the budget. John said he allows a small amount in the budget to allow for these kinds of things. *This would need to be verified before going ahead.

Recent Outreach Efforts

- The Committee was pleased with the full page allocated to recycling in the new issue of *The Arrow*.
- The Committee was also pleased with the recent article in *The Times Record*, mentioning the schedule change back to biweekly pickup, that also included some background and statistics on Arrowsic recycling. Paul said the reporter did a good job and got all the facts right, but thought it painted a rosier picture of recycling in town than he thought should have been conveyed, ideally, if there were more details. He said he did follow up with the reporter, with more information, inviting her to do another story at some point.

Recap of Bulky Item Pickup

- Paul said he spoke with Craig Rogers, who was generally satisfied with how the collection went. Rogers said the turnout for both weeks was good, and most people called ahead to make arrangements, some opting for another day in the week. The only problems arose with a number of people who hadn't made special arrangements and were overlooked until they called and their items were then picked up. Rogers said, next time the best approach would be to have everyone call ahead to make arrangements, and then he won't have to check every road in town, whether there are participants or not. Rogers also said it would be better to have the pickup earlier in August, probably the second and third weeks, but not the Friday before Labor Day, because the landfill might close early and he wouldn't be able to drop everything off until after the long weekend. He also suggested doing one week before Labor Day, to catch summer residents, and then the second week after Labor Day.
 - The Committee discussed Roger's feedback, and said his recommendations sounded good and would be followed for next year's pickup.

Composting

- The Committee discussed composting and ways to determine exactly how much composting takes place in Town. Roz said having specific numbers for composting would be a tremendous help to the State in calculating Arrowsic's recycling rate, and might actually boost the total number.
 - The subject of doing a Survey Monkey questionnaire was again brought up as a way to answer this question. Knowing how representative of the Town any responses would be was brought up, and that the result could be that most respondents could be those who are composting, which would skew the results. Discussion ensued on how to get a more representative response, including offering some sort of attractive prize through a raffle.
 - Paul said he had asked the Selectmen about doing a survey, and whether it should be an opportunity for all Town committees, etc., to participate, or if it might be better just to focus on recycling questions. The consensus was to do a survey this time, concentrating on recycling.
 - *It was decided that Committee members should develop questions for a survey and bring them to the next meeting.
- Keeping an eye out for opportunities to purchase composting bins in bulk for the Town was discussed. The City of Bath and MRRA were identified as two possibilities.

Recycling Shed Lighting

- *John said he had a window he was willing to donate for the back wall of the shed, and would ask Michael Kreindler about getting an estimate for labor to install it.
- With the shorter days and early darkness, it was determined that there was an immediate need to purchase a motion-activated, battery- or solar-powered led light for the inside of the shed.
 - Research that had already been done was discussed. John thought the battery-powered light he has at home might work; two might be optimal. Paul said he had checked online for this particular light and might have found some sources. Solar power was discussed as being preferable, since it eliminated the need to monitor and change batteries. It was pointed out that led lights use very little power and batteries would last for a long time.
 - *Paul said would recheck the information on John's light and several other lights, including those with solar power, and get back to the Committee so that lights could be purchased, and installed asap. How to purchase, budget, etc., were discussed.

Joint Planning for the Next Town Roadside Cleanup

- Paul said he had corresponded with Phine Ewing about a joint meeting with the ACC to discuss planning, and the date had been tentatively set for their October 21 meeting.
 - Paul said the issue of having only two members from each committee meet hadn't yet been resolved, but this approach might necessitate having a separate meeting of the two committees.
 - Paul said he was now also on the ACC, and this subject was on the agenda for their next meeting on September 16. The Committee still felt the two-member approach was best, but it was decided to see how the ACC felt about this idea first. John, Paul, and Ros are possible joint meeting attendees. *Paul will report back.
 - The Committee then decided on the following to be discussed and proposed at the joint meeting:
 - Identify the common goals.
 - ACC: clean up Town roadsides.
 - ASWRC: reduce trash collected, keeping in mind that it costs about 20 times more to remove trash than to recycle; sorting must take place.
 - It should be billed as joint committee event.
 - The second bag handed out to volunteers, in addition to the one used to collect trash, should be for all recyclable items, not just returnable bottles. This bag would be taken back to the Town Hall and sorted out by volunteers. Areas would need to be set up for the different recyclables.
 - To handle the sorting, volunteers would be called for ahead of time (Town e-mail, etc.), and a workshop/training session would be held on the cleanup day to provide training. Refreshments would be provided.
 - Ros said she might have a good source for purchasing gloves in bulk.
 - Roadside cleanup volunteers would also be offered the opportunity to help sort, but the focus would be on having a separate sorting crew.
 - The event should be held on the Saturday before a regular trash/recycling pickup week. This would allow for the possibility of having everything taken away with the regular pickup on the following Friday, saving possible extra charges for a separate pickup by RC Rogers.
 - John said this would still allow for the flexibility of a special pickup in the event that there were any questions or concerns about leaving all the trash and recycling for too long a period.

Meeting Schedule

- Next meeting, Monday, October 20, 6:00 PM.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.