

Arrowsic Solid Waste/Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes—August 18, 2014

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

- The meeting convened at 6:00 PM at the Recycling Shed, outside the Arrowsic Town Hall, and later moved into the Town Hall.

The Recycling Shed

- John gave a status report of activity in the shed. He reported that 49 pounds of rechargeable batteries, 86 pounds of regular batteries, 60 pounds of scrap metal, and 40 pounds of electronics had been recycled in July. This was considered a significant amount.
 - There was some discussion on what is and is not recyclable in the shed, and John mentioned that the microwave oven found in there is not something generally accepted, but it could actually be recycled as scrap metal.
 - John indicated that work in the shed was currently manageable, but anything more would be a problem.
- John said that a large window was going to be installed in the east-facing wall of the shed to let more light in. He also said he was still researching the best type of light to install.
- *It was decided to post an enlarged version of the new recycling brochure—in poster format—on the inside door of the bottle-recycling compartment. There would also be a stack of the brochures inside the shed.
- There was some discussion on having a covered bulletin board somewhere on the outside of the shed, where the poster, announcements, schedules, etc., could be posted. Paul thought he might have materials for this that could be donated. Another suggestion was to have a weather-proof plastic box outside where the recycling brochure would be more readily accessible. These ideas would need to be run by the Selectmen before proceeding.

Committee Chair

- Ros, with reinforcement from the other Committee members, nominated Paul to be the Committee chair. Paul thanked Ros and the other members for their compliments and support, but said he had, due to multiple other commitments, to decline. He did, however, say that he would continue to provide ongoing support to the Committee as he has been doing, with hope that someone else could take on this position in the near future.

Action Items

- At this point, Paul suggested reviewing the list of “action items” developed at the previous month’s meeting. The list served as a partial agenda and was covered in full over the course of the meeting.

Article for The Arrowsic Arrow

- *Ros wrote a short article on mulching and composting that she proposed submitting for publication in *The Arrowsic Arrow*. Upon review, the rest of the Committee agreed this would be perfect for distribution to the Town.
- Ros also suggested that the Committee try to get something similar in every quarterly edition of *The Arrow*.

Town Curbside Cleanup

- It was noted that the bulky item pickup was going ahead on schedule on August 21 and 28, and that Craig Rogers agreed with the plan, as presented.
- Ros suggested that, for next time, everyone interested in having things picked up should simply call RC Rogers to make definite arrangements for pickup on the specified day, and that this would eliminate any doubt as to whether there would be sufficient participation to make it worthwhile for Rogers to do. The Committee thought this made the most sense.

New Recycling/Solid Waste Brochure

- *Ros said she was finishing up the new brochure and would send everyone a copy to proof as soon as it is ready. She proposed presenting the information as both a one-page poster for quick-and-easy access and a trifold brochure. The poster would cover all the essentials about what could be recycled and how, and the brochure would include additional information on the back about why to recycle.

- As already mentioned above, the poster and brochure would be in the Recycling Shed, but would also be in the Town Hall.
- Discussion then ensued on the best method(s) for getting the word out about the new brochure.
 - The plan was developed to finish the poster/brochure now and post/distribute it in the Recycling Shed and Town Hall, and then, in the spring (April), to officially distribute it via e-mail/mail to the Town. This timing is intended to get everyone, including summer residents, at the start of the summer season.
 - Additional ideas for effective distribution of the new brochure were discussed. These ideas would be discussed with the Selectmen. *Paul said he would approach them on this subject.
 - Distribute with annual tax bills?
 - Distribute with annual car registrations?
 - Distribute with a full US mailing to the entire Town?
 - Distribute as an insert in the Annual Town Report?
 - It was felt that any additional cost incurred by the Town for these approaches could be justified by the fact that effective communication about recycling could significantly reduce the overall disposal costs for the Town's solid waste.
 - *Ros said she would also work with Paul Kalkstein to post the new brochure information on the website.
 - *Ros also suggested adding an insert to the brochure on composting for the spring mailing. This idea was unanimously approved by the rest of the Committee.

Communication with Non-recyclers

- The subject was again discussed about how to best communicate with those townspeople who never seem to recycle anything at all. It was decided that the first approach would be to—in a totally non-confrontational manner—knock on the doors of those who are known never to have recycled, explain our presence, i.e., we're canvassing the Town to make sure everyone is aware about recycling and the Town requirement, offer our services and assistance, and leave them with a copy of the brochure.
- *John and Paul volunteered to take on this task.

Composting

- The discussion began with John mentioning a recent regional survey that concluded that 43% of waste that is either incinerated or put in landfills is compostable material.
- The Committee had already identified the importance of composting and the need to focus on this as a significant way to reduce the Town's solid waste tonnage.
- The "quick tips" for the Arrow and the insert for the new brochure would already be focusing on composting, but the Committee would take this subject up in further detail at the next meeting.
 - *Ros suggested producing a detailed brochure on composting, after the new comprehensive brochure is completed.

Coordination of Hazardous Household/Waste Collection and Town Roadside Cleanup

- There was discussion on how best to meet with the Conservation Commission to develop a plan for next year's Roadside Cleanup. Most members felt that having two members from each group meet, come up with a plan, and then report back to the full membership of each group would be the most efficient approach.
 - Paul said he would contact Phine Ewing to suggest this and aim for an October meeting.
 - It was also decided that the Committee would discuss goals for this meeting in advance of the October ACC meeting at the next ASWRC meeting in September.

Meeting Schedule

- Next meeting, Monday, September 15, 6:00 PM.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

**Denotes action items*

ps—8/19/14