

Arrowsic Solid Waste/Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes—June 1, 2015

Committee members present: Ros Arienti, John Hinds, Roz McClean, Paul Schlein, Katie Smith, Maggie Woodruff

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

Introduction of New Members/Orientation/Discussion of Committee Tasks

- The Committee welcomed new members Katie Smith and Maggie Woodruff. With this increase in the size of the Committee, some discussion ensued around how to orient and train the new members and what tasks and projects they could help with. Ideas included:
 - Rotating tasks from member to member over time.
 - Having members shadow others to learn their jobs.
 - Having someone new take over doing the meeting minutes.
 - Katie said she had some experience with this and offered to take on this task. Paul said he would do the June minutes and Katie could start with the next meeting in July.
- Paul said, while his work on the Committee was only supposed to be temporary, at this point he felt totally committed to the work at hand, wanted to continue to help as much as he could, and had decided he would stay and officially accept the position of Committee Chair. He added that he thought that no one should be in any position or do any particular job for too long and that efforts should be made for everyone to learn and be capable of doing any of the various jobs.

Meeting Minutes

- The April meeting minutes had already been circulated and approved through e-mail.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

- John and Roz reported that seven out of eight who had preregistered came to drop off their materials at the site in Bath. The total collection for Arrowsic was 16 units at \$25 per unit. Adding the setup fee and other administrative expenses, the total came in at \$534, well under the \$600 budget.
- Committee members then discussed various aspects of the collection in detail.
 - Maggie reported that when she called up to preregister, the person was very organized and knowledgeable, and even suggested consolidating paint materials to save money. Bath had hired an outside company to handle registration and it seemed like it went very well.
 - John and Paul had received the inventory list in advance of what was to be collected from the town, and contacted anyone with multiple similar items, such as partially full paint cans, and asked them to consolidate into full cans, in order to reduce the total number of units. All who were contacted were cooperated completely.
 - The point was made that very few, if any, townspeople have an understanding of how this works, and what a huge savings is realized in being able to participate in this multi-town approach. Individuals wanting to dispose of hazardous materials on their own would pay many, many times more than what the town pays through this group participation.
 - It was stated that communication with the town beforehand, through *The Arrow* and e-mail, is critical in educating town residents. Information provided would give a few details of how the program works and explain how to reduce the total amount of materials turned in and reduce overall cost.
 - Based on the town's limited budget for the collection, setting a monetary limit per participant was discussed. A participant would have to pay anything over a specified amount out of their own pocket. The concern and potential if someone has an unusually large amount of material was that this alone might exhaust the entire budget or go over. The point was made that going over budget hasn't been an issue yet. It was stated that the purpose of this collection was to safely remove hazardous materials from the waste stream, and this was money well spent. Setting limits might

discourage individuals from participating and even encourage improper disposal. The consensus was not to set any limits or charge participants individually.

Preparation for Town Meeting

- Various ideas were discussed for what could or should be conveyed to the town at Town Meeting. The idea would be to supplement what appears in the Annual Report. *Paul said he would put something together and circulate it to the Committee for review.

Bulky Item Pickup Schedule

- *Paul would contact Craig Rogers to review what had been done last year and ask him which dates before and after Labor Day would work best.
- This year, individuals will have to contact Rogers ahead of time to make arrangements; this would eliminate the need for Roger's to have to drive up and down all the town roads to see who has put something out for pickup.

Review of Draft Casella Contract

- The draft contract with Casella (Pine Tree Waste, Inc.) was reviewed.
 - It was noted that while the contract specifies that construction/demolition debris, commercial waste, and bulky waste are accepted by Casella at the West Bath Transfer Station, RC Rogers does not accept these materials, unless they are collected and paid for separately. If the town were to incorporate these materials into its normal collection, costs would increase significantly.
 - Most of the discussion centered on the fact that, after the first year, fees charged for recycling and trash would be subject to increases based on certain indexes. Recycling fees would be reviewed twice per year and trash once per year. Concerns expressed included not knowing how to budget for these increases, and also that there were no limits set for the size of any possible increases.
 - *Paul would contact Karen McNaughton at Casella to ask for more details on this part of the contract. He would ask what recent increases have been, or an average, and to see if there might be some sort of cap that might be placed on increases.
 - *Paul would forward the contract to the Selectboard, along with some notes of the Committee's discussion and concern.

Renewal of Contract with RC Rogers

- It was noted that the RC Rogers contract would be running out at the end of June and needed to be renewed. Craig Rogers had already said that his fees would not be increasing for next year. *Paul would contact Craig to see how to proceed.

Recycling/Composting Survey

- *Paul and Ros would be meeting soon to review the survey in an attempt to get it into a format for everyone to review, analyze it, and distill it down to some basic feedback, conclusions, and possible recommendations that can be conveyed to the town via *The Arrow*, e-mail, and at Town Meeting.

New Recycling Brochure

- 300 copies of the brochure had been printed and would be inserted by the printer into the annual report that would be distributed to the town before Town Meeting. Extra copies of the brochure would need to be removed from the remaining copies of the annual report.
- For the town website, the recommendation was made to separate the brochure into two separate pages, to allow just the inside to be printed and posted in residents' homes.

Miscellaneous Items

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- Corks, natural and plastic, have been added to the list of recyclable items. Whole Foods in Portland recycles them. Individuals will not be asked to take them to Portland, but anyone from the Committee traveling there can drop them off; they need to be separated. Two containers will be added to the Recycling Shed and a note sent out to the town mentioning this new item.
- An e-mail notice would be sent out to the town on Tuesday, June 2, mentioning that the trash pickup schedule would be changing to weekly on Friday, June 5.
- An enlarged poster version of the inside of the recycling brochure, that would be hung on the back wall of the Town Hall, still needed to be printed; *Selectboard approval would be needed first.

Meeting Schedule

- Next Meeting: With busy summer schedules starting, to gather as many Committee members as possible for the next meeting, the July meeting was moved up from Monday the 20th to Tuesday the 14th.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

*Denotes action items

ps—6/4/15