

Arrowsic Solid Waste/Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes—February 24, 2015

Committee members present: Ros Arienti, John Hinds, Paul Schlein

Invited guest: Phine Ewing, Arrowsic Conservation Commission

- The meeting convened at 6:05 PM at the Arrowsic Town Hall.

Spring Roadside Cleanup

- Phine Ewing, chair of the Arrowsic Conservation Commission, agreed, on short notice, to come to the meeting to discuss the logistics of the upcoming Roadside Cleanup, especially with respect to the ACC and ASWRC coordinating the event.
- To make it easier for both those along the roadside, as well as those hauling the bags back to the Town Hall, it was decided that two small, open-top, kitchen-size bags, black for trash and white for recyclables, would be used. Some larger bags would also be kept on hand for oversized items that might be found. *Phine said she would purchase the bags. *Buying rubber gloves was also discussed.
- All recyclable items, including returnable bottles and cans, would be put into the recycling bag, and everything would be sorted out back at the Town Hall.
- At the start of the cleanup, someone from the ASWRC would be available at the Town Hall to instruct all the roadside volunteers in exactly what is recyclable and what will be deemed too dirty to be recycled. John said his guideline would be to say if you can't quickly wash or rinse the item in question in your sink, then it can't be recycled, and should be thrown out. *The ASWRC will produce an instructional poster showing recyclable and non-recyclable items and have it at the Town Hall for volunteers to view.
- Instead of waiting until the cleanup is over and picking up all the bags, the bags will be picked up on a regular basis and brought back to the Town Hall, allowing the sorting to be ongoing. Volunteers would also have easy access to water which would be made available. In addition, volunteers would have the opportunity to ask any questions they might have.
- *Phine suggested that the ASWRC find someone with a truck to pick up the bags, as Karen Robbins might not be available with her truck this year. [Mentioned after the meeting: Even if Karen were there, she wouldn't be able to pick up the bags before the end of the cleanup, since she'd be one of the cleanup crew herself.]
- John said he thought four people sorting at the Town Hall would work well. Ros suggested different shifts of four would make the job easier for volunteers.
- John said this might be the beginning of his busy time with his landscaping work, and there was a good chance he would not be available to help this year, *but he would be available to run the training workshop for volunteers to learn about sorting, planned for Tuesday, April 14, at 6:00 PM.
- Following the notice in *The Arrow*, no one had yet come forth to volunteer to sort at the Town Hall. Other approaches, including making phone calls and sending additional e-mails were discussed. The possibility of several of the roadside volunteers being asked to sort at the Town Hall instead was also considered. Phine thought latecomers might be the best candidates.
- As discussed at the ACC meeting on February 17, *a second notice about the cleanup would be e-mailed to the town on April 19. It would be a joint announcement from the ACC and ASWRC, mentioning the two tasks where help is needed.

Meeting Minutes

- The January meeting minutes had already been circulated and unanimously approved though e-mail.

ASWRC Report and Budget for the Annual Report

- The report and budget for the Annual Report are due by April 1. *Ros would put together a draft of the report by mid-March for committee review, and *Paul would contact Roz to see if she could do the same for the budget.

New Recycling Brochure

- The new brochure had received many favorable comments.

- Feedback had been received from one individual with a revised listing for *the library store*. *Paul would make the change and ask Paul Kalkstein to replace the current file on the website.
- *Paul said he would contact Damian to see if he can still get a poster of the new brochure made and laminated to put on the outside of the recycling shed.

Recycling Grants

- The grant that would supply the town with recycling cart to use instead of bins was discussed. It was decided that these carts, with wheels, might be more suitable for the urban rather than rural environment, and could actually make recycling more difficult. Having to wheel heavy carts down driveways or trying to fit them in cars might be challenging.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

- The annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection run by Bath will be on Saturday, May 2.
- John said the two signs in the recycling shed will need some work. *They would be looked at during the time of the March meeting.
- While the HHW had already been announced in the February *Arrow*, a second notice, closer to the event was needed. Since the May *Arrow* would not be out until after the collection, *the committee would ask to have an e-mail sent out to the town beforehand.

Composting Bins

- *Paul said he would check again with the Bath city clerk to get an update on the availability of compost bins.

Recycling/Composting Survey

- Committee members had received preliminary results from the online recycling survey and these were briefly discussed. 71 responses had been received so far, out of about 170 e-mails sent out, *and a second, reminder e-mail would be sent out to the town by the end of the month, to see if the response rate could be increased.
- One idea that came up in discussion related to composting was to contact the professional landscapers in town to see if they might have use for compost generated by the town and, if so, how this might be collected.
- A more detailed discussion would be on the March agenda.

ASWRC E-mail Address

- It was suggested that the committee should have its own unique e-mail address, such as recycling@arrowsic.org. This would eliminate the problem of contact names or personal addresses that might change. Through this address, messages could be routed to anyone on the committee, without using any personal addresses. *Paul would ask Paul Kalkstein about this.

Committee Membership Update

- Acknowledging the need, the committee discussed possible ways to recruit more members, but no new approaches were decided upon. *Ros said she would contact the person who, at one point, expressed interest in joining the committee, as she lives on her road.

Meeting Schedule

- Next Meeting: Due to conflicts, the March meeting date was moved from the 16th to the 23rd. *Paul would e-mail Bill Savedoff to update the online town calendar, and check with Linda for possible conflicts.
- Since the meeting happens around dinnertime, the idea of having a potluck was discussed.
- Paul said he would not be available for the April meeting.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.