

## **Arrowsic Solid Waste/Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes—July 22, 2014**

*Committee members present: Ros Arienti, Jon Biehler, John Hinds, Paul Schlein, Damian Sokol*

- The meeting convened at 6:28 PM at the Arrowsic Town Hall.
- New member, Jon Biehler, introduced himself to the other Committee members.
- Members agreed on an agenda of various subjects (*below*), with the final item and main focus to be work on the draft of the new recycling solid waste brochure.

### ***Website Corrections/Changes***

- Ros pointed out that the link to the Bath landfill on the Town website did not work.
  - \*Paul said he had to contact Paul Kalkstein about another change, and would take care of this change as well.

### ***Meeting Schedule***

- Having regular meetings was discussed, and it was decided, pending verification from the Selectmen, to hold a meeting on the third Monday of every month at 6:00 PM.
  - \*Paul will contact the Selectmen.
  - Damian suggested holding monthly meetings for now, working on good time management, with the goal of limiting them to one hour, and then considering less frequent meetings as things become more organized.
    - Paul still thought scheduling the Town Hall for two hours would be advisable, to allow some flexibility and avoid possible scheduling conflicts with other Town groups.

### ***Committee Work and Scheduling***

- Committee work and scheduling were discussed, focusing on ways in which to distribute the various tasks among Committee members. At present, Roz is handling all the bookkeeping, and John has been managing the shed, something that can be quite time consuming.
  - It was agreed that the August 18 meeting would be a work session where John would explain in detail everything about the shed, its contents, and how to manage them.
  - \*In the meantime, it was suggested and agreed to that when John has materials ready for disposal and/or recycling, such as electronics and CDs, he would e-mail the group to see who might be available to take these materials to the designated site, so that he is not the only one responsible for this.

### ***Committee Chair***

- The subject of the lack of a Committee chair was brought up, and the fact that, at some point, the Selectmen would like to see someone take on this responsibility. At the present time, Paul would continue, as planned, as the “contact person,” for the Committee, and the chair position was left open.

### ***Committee Salaries***

- Paul asked about the \$541 that has been budgeted for Committee salaries. John said that everyone has been receiving an equal share.

### ***Recycling Webpages***

- Discussion of work on the recycling pages of the Town website was raised, and it was decided to defer this until after the brochure is completed.

### ***Town Curbside Cleanup***

- Having a townwide curbside cleanup was discussed, similar to those held in the past, where residents could dispose of large bulky items such as furniture, appliances, tires, and construction materials at their own expense. In the past, the Town trash hauler did this at the same time as the regular trash/recycling pickup.

The consensus was this would be a good idea, and having it on two consecutive Fridays in August (8/22, 8/29) would allow summer residents to participate.

- \*Paul will discuss this with Craig Rogers and the Selectmen.

### ***Town Recycling Rate and How to Improve***

- Jon asked about the current Town recycling rate. He wondered if there are specific items that can be identified that are not being recycled and, if so, are there ways to improve these categories.
  - Jon also asked if our trash/recycling hauler knows who is and is not recycling.
    - John said, as he travels around Town in his work, that he still sees examples of those who consistently do not recycle at all.
    - Paul brought up the letter that was used in the past to alert non-recyclers of the mandatory recycling ordinance.
      - \*Ros thought the first approach should be to give those not in compliance with the ordinance something with a more friendly tone. She said she would draft something for the Committee to review.
      - \*Paul also said when he spoke with Craig Rogers, he would ask him if he would be willing, as he did in the past, to leave whatever message we develop with those non-recyclers, and possibly provide the Committee with a list of who he has given them to (addresses).
  - Paul suggested doing a townwide survey through Survey Monkey to try to determine where the Town is with respect to recycling, how/why residents recycle or do not, solicit suggestions from residents, etc., and use the information gathered to develop a plan for boosting recycling in Town.
    - \*It was generally agreed that the Committee would develop a questionnaire and undertake this at some point.
  - Paul also suggested a monthly ASWRC newsletter highlighting and focusing on a single topic each time, such as composting, that could be distributed through the Town e-mail list and posted on the Town website.
    - \*The Committee thought this would be a good idea and would take a look at this as well in the near future.

### ***Composting***

- John pointed out that statistics show that focusing on composting is the single best thing for reduction of solid waste and improvement of recycling. Discussion ensued on community composting, in Town or at a regional location, different types of compost bins/containers, what gets composted, issues/problems related to composting, etc.
  - \*Composting was identified as something that merits significant attention from the Committee, and further, more intensive discussion will follow.

### ***Coordination of Hazardous Household/Waste Collection and Town Roadside Cleanup***

- A discussion took place on how to better coordinate the Hazardous Household/Waste Cleanup and Town Roadside Cleanup and how the ASWRC could better work and coordinate with the Arrowsic Conservation Commission.
  - One goal of the ASWRC is to be able to separate and sort recyclable items from the trash to be thrown away, either on site, along the road, or back at the Town Hall. The current approach separates trash from deposit bottles, but other recyclable items are left with the trash.
  - Suggested ideas for improvement included separating all recyclable items from the trash at roadside, and then pulling out the returnable bottles later at the Town Hall.
  - To take the pressure off of holding both events on the same day, choosing different dates, separating the two events, and holding two—spring and fall—roadside cleanups was suggested.

- Through a letter to the ASWRC, the ACC has invited the ASWRC to attend one of its meetings to discuss this issue and develop a plan, and ASWRC members thought this was an excellent idea and would do this in the near future.

***Review/Revise Draft Recycling/Solid Waste Brochure***

- The draft of the new recycling/solid waste brochure was gone over in detail, section by section. It was decided to make the one-page flyer into a full trifold brochure, allowing room for expansion and additional text. Ros had her computer with her and made revisions on the spot. One of the new brochure panels would list and briefly describe the state solid-waste hierarchy: reduce, reuse, recycle, compost, incinerate, landfill.
  - \*Paul said he would send links for outside hazardous waste disposal sites to Ros.
  - \*Craig Rogers and the Selectmen would review the final draft of the brochure.
  - \*It was noted that all outside recycling sites referred to in the brochure should be verified.
  - \*Ros said the brochure would be dated.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.

*\*Denotes action items*