



Recycling Committee Minutes

September 23, 2021

6:30pm – Regular Meeting

At Broadcast Studio

Recycling Committee members in attendance: Rolf Olsen, Rep. Jessica Fay, Cathy Gosselin, Karen Lockwood, Susan Accardi, Grace Leavitt

Recycling Committee members absent: none

Town Staff in attendance:

Don Willard – Town Manager

Nathan White – Public Works Director

Sue Look – Town Clerk

1) **Called to order** at 6:30pm by Town Clerk Look

2) **New Business**

a) **Election of Officers**

Mr Olsen nominated Grace Leavitt as Chair. Seconded by Rep Fay.

Motion to end nominations by Mr Olsen. Seconded by Rep Fay.

Motion to elect Grace Leavitt as Chair by Ms Accardi. Seconded by Mrs Gosselin.

Unanimously approved

Rep Fay nominated Sue Accardi as Vice Chair. Seconded by Mr Olsen

Motion to end nominations by consensus.

Sue Accardi elected as Vice-Chair by **unanimous consensus**

Motion to elect Karen Lockwood as Secretary (to begin at the next meeting) by Rep Fay. Seconded by Mr Olsen.

Motion to end nominations by Mr Olsen. Seconded by Mrs Gosselin.

Karen Lockwood elected as Secretary by **unanimous consensus**

b) Consideration of Adopting Remote Participation Policy

Motion to adopt the Remote Participation Policy by Mr Olsen. Seconded by Rep Fay.

Unanimously approved

c) Discuss How to Proceed

What is recyclable and what is not? We should look at the fiscal responsibility for the Town. Does it make more sense to convert trash to energy? How do we educate the public? We should bring people in to speak to these issues to educate us as a committee, Nate Chapman from Casella Waste for example and someone from Maine Waste to Energy. Household trash is trash to energy, as is any recycling that is not clean enough to recycle. What are other towns doing? The cost of recycling has gone up. We pay per ton. What is the impact on the environment with the waste to energy? The market has changed dramatically. The Town has a Recycling Policy that the Select Board wants feedback from this committee before revisiting this policy. We should hear from a sustainability expert. The legislature did pass a bill that creates a packaging stewardship program which will work like bottle redemption. The money from this will go back to communities to help defray the costs of waste. The markets are beginning to move a bit now. The State has some guidelines and statutory language around waste management. Bulky waste has no bearing on what the Recycling Committee is looking at. There is a class coming up in Adult Ed at RSU #14 about recycling. Education will be a big part of what this committee does to help citizens understand any changes to recycling. The intent of single sort was good, but the result is awful. Everything is marked recyclable, but there is not a market for everything. Changing packaging is what needs to be done. Some companies are looking at bioplastics. We just signed a 5-year contract with Casella Waste. There is the ME Recycling annual meeting and trade show at the Samoset in Rockport on October 18 & 19. Rep Fay is going to go and anyone else on the committee could go and the Town will cover the fee and the electric car can be used.

Committee Member Assignments:

- Town Manager Willard will set up a speaker from Maine Waste to Energy for Nov 18. Also, the budgeted amounts for waste for the past 4 years.
- Public Works Director White will set up a speaker from Casella Waste for Nov 18th. Also, will get a report on tonnage.
- Chair Leavitt will check with some surrounding towns to see what they are doing.
- Town Clerk Look will send a template for agenda and minutes to Ms Lockwood and will give instruction about basic minutes.
- Rep Fay will find the implementation date of the packaging law – the first date for the legislature to hear results is 2023 and will get someone from DEP and from sustainability for Oct 21st.
- Mrs Gosselin will send the committee members a link to the RSY #14 Adult Ed recycling class.

Next Meetings:

- Meetings will be on the 3rd Thursday of the month and will begin at 6:30pm.
- October 21st
- November 18th

3) Public Comment – none

4) Recycling Committee Comment

Mrs Gosselin – This is a good start.

5) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7.24pm by Mrs Gosselin. Seconded by Ms Lockwood.

Unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L Look, Town Clerk