



## Recycling Committee Minutes

November 18, 2021

6:30pm – Regular Meeting

At Broadcast Studio

**Recycling Committee members in attendance:** Rolf Olsen, Cathy Gosselin, Karen Lockwood, Susan Accardi, Grace Leavitt

**Recycling Committee members absent:** Rep. Jessica Fay

**Town Staff in attendance:**

Don Willard – Town Manager

Nathan White – Public Works Director

1) **Called to order** at 6:31pm by Chair Leavitt.

2) **Approval of Minutes**

a) October 21, 2021

**Motion** to approve as presented by Ms Accardi. Seconded by Mrs. Gosselin.

**Unanimously approved.**

3) **New Business**

a) Letter from John King, Maine Waste to Energy Executive Director

Town Manager Willard read the letter he received from John King. The letter was in response to the questions the Committee had posed in September. The Maine Waste to Energy facility was built in 1992 to serve it's 12 owner communities. The Town of Raymond is one of the communities. The primary function is to provide safe, environmentally friendly, reliable, cost-effective waste disposal. Over the course of the more than 30 years, the facility has processed and disposed of 946,000 tons of waste. The facility burns waste to create high pressure and high temperature steam to power an electrical generator. The electricity generated is used in-house to run the facility and the excess is sold to Maine's electrical power grid. The member towns now receive lower disposal rates for their waste. The towns pay \$41 per ton, which is about 50% less than the current market rate. The facility does recycle some materials, but it is not a recycling facility. If Raymond decides not to recycle, all waste can be sent to Maine Waste to Energy to be processed and Raymond will pay less for overall waste disposal assuming recycling tipping fees remain high.

Public Works Director White: Raymond currently pays a recycling tipping fee of \$63

per ton. Raymond has a three-year contract with Casella (formerly Pine Tree Waste) based on a cap of \$150 per ton. The recycling tipping fee moves according to the market. The management structure at Casella has experienced recent changes and hasn't been able to send a representative to the speak to the committee.

The present issue is that waste is not being properly segregated at the curbside. Material put in the recycle bins gets picked up at the \$63 rate. If it gets rejected at the recycle site and ultimately ends up at the Maine Waste to Energy facility, it could have been sent initially for the \$41 per ton rate.

- b) Presentation by Casella; Casella did not attend the meeting and no presentation was given.
- c) Chair Leavitt shared her research on the surrounding towns' information posted on their websites regarding recycling.
  - Raymond summer population increases from 4,000 to 12,000. Need to have a policy in place.
- d) Mrs. Gosselin reported on the Recycling 101 class offered by Windham Raymond Adult Education.

Committee Member Assignments:

- Public Works Director White will contact Casella to see if they can do a presentation to the committee at the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Questions for Casella, who (town) is doing better than us, and why? Possibly have the representative from that town meet with the committee. Also ask Casella what towns have good recycling educational programs to educate their public that Raymond could benefit from.

Ms Lockwood to follow up with Garbage to Garden Ops Manager on request to present to the committee, and whether Windham will also be participating in their program.

Next Meeting:

- January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**4) Public Comment** – none

**5) Recycling Committee Comment**

none

**6) Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn at 7:24 pm by Ms Accardi. Seconded by Mrs. Gosselin.

**Unanimously approved**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Karen Lockwood, Secretary*