

HSWC minutes
5-11-2015
(5-24-15 version)
(tasks in **bold**)

Present: Shawn Kelley, Martha McDaniel, Todd Allen, Rich Menge, Harry Kendrick, Bethany Fleishman, Simon Dennis

Meeting convened at 5:40 PM

Agenda:

1. Review/approve 4/27/15 meeting minutes
2. Discuss questionnaire
3. Discuss final report to Select Board
 - Recycling
 - Regionalization
 - GUVSWD
 - Transfer Station
 - Composting
 - Town-wide solid waste/recycling contract
4. Other business

Discussed:

1. Meeting Minutes -4/27/2015

Bethany moved, and Simon seconded, approval of draft minutes of 4/27/15 meeting. Unanimous approval.

2. possible Town-wide questionnaire

The Selectboard is discussing the possibility of surveying Town residents on budget matters.

Should we merge our questions with theirs? Considerations, both pro and con:

- “survey fatigue” and possible confusion among residents (if 2 surveys were issued);
- if the 2 topics were combined, then interest in either solid waste OR budget might stimulate more residents to complete a single survey;
- if combined, no need to duplicate the demographic questions; and
- solid waste decisions are, at least in part, budget-related.

We'll leave it to the Selectboard to decide whether it would be best to send out 1 or 2 questionnaires. If they'd like input from the HSWC, Todd/Martha/Bethany would be happy to attend 1 meeting of Selectboard questionnaire-developing subcommittee to consult.

3. final committee report to Selectboard

This committee was created as a task-related, not a standing, body. We've now reached a point at which it makes sense to complete our work and adjourn. (Since we've now accumulated quite a bit of knowledge about solid waste-related matters, though, all members of the committee would be willing to reassemble if, say, advice were sought on the drafting of an RFP for Townwide trash/recycling/±food scraps pickup.)

a. recycling

The Town-wide vote this year, as on 2 prior occasions, in favor of Town-sponsored curbside recycling pickup was strongly (7 to 1) in support, so an RFP is about to be issued. Notably,

this RFP offers bidders the opportunity to quote rates for a multi-year contract, in addition to an amount for a single-year contract (as mandated by the most recent vote).

- encourage Selectboard to consider a multi-year contract for curbside recycling, rather than just a single year contract (assuming it would offer significant reduction in overall cost). A possible consideration is that an existing multi-year contract for curbside recycling-only pickup might interfere with adoption of Townwide trash/recycling/±food scraps pickup.
- consider resident education needs topics:
 - awareness of zero-sort recycling at curbside (slightly complicated by the fact that for now, we need to continue sorting requirement at transfer station because of need to sell sorted recyclables)
 - new resident education needs – can these be met by materials available on Town website? Perhaps best to make up pamphlet for condo associations.
 - might issue a periodic “blast” via electronic media. Who might do this? (perhaps the vendor who picks up the curbside recycling contract)
 - materials for Town website
 - schools (facilities director says they are “on track” for complying with Act 148 provisions for recyclable separation on 7-1-15)
 - Parks & Recreation (also said to be “on track” – though many or all sites are “carry-in/carry-out”)

b. regionalization

There are two major areas of opportunity for regionalization, though neither is on the near horizon:

- HHW; this is underway, but moving slowly, with Hartford transfer station as the focus; major impetus coming from UVLSRPC.
- composting: broad sentiment in favor of a more robust regional composting option, but startup funding needs might be major and cost effectiveness is in question. If the site were in Hartland at GUVSWMD, we would almost surely still be able to use it even if we were not District members.

c. GUVSWMD membership?

We see no compelling reason to pursue this.

d. Hartford transfer station changes

- recycling

It would be popular to allow no-sort recycling for materials brought to the transfer station, but there’s no clear way to avoid using the sales of depositor-sorted recyclables as a major source of income. Major functions of the transfer station include accepting large items (including State mandated recyclables such as electronics and paint). These latter activities require a certain level of labor and expertise, which could not be reduced much even if the work associated with processing the smaller sorted mandated recyclables were reduced.

- changes in the event of instituting Townwide curbside combined pickup

Though there might be slight reductions in anticipated Hartford resident use of the transfer station if this were effected, it’s not on the near horizon.

- changes in the event that Lebanon landfill stops using Hartford ground C&D materials for cover

Needing to pay for disposing Hartford C&D materials would be quite costly, and would almost certainly jeopardize the “enterprise fund” situation of the transfer station.

e. composting

There is much uncertainty at present about exactly how the implementation of Act 148 with regard to organics will play out. It'll be important to stay alert to these developments. At present, ANR believes that the private operation in Corinth is our regional composting facility, but we think this may not suffice in the medium term. Food scraps will be completely banned from landfills as of 2020, regardless of availability of an adequate composting facility within 20 miles. We'll want to **remind the Selectboard of this timetable**.

f. Town-sponsored curbside pickup of more than just recyclables

See above about implications of having a multi-year contract for curbside pickup of recyclables, in the event that the Selectboard wishes to issue an RFP for curbside pickup of trash/recycling/±food scraps.

g. overall structure of report

- DSM's top recommendation is in favor of curbside pickup of trash/recycling/±food scraps.
- here are the major issues: (see headings above)
- The HSWC recommends, as a next step, seeing how Town residents feel about this recommendation (which might increase property taxes about \$300/year). If the Selectboard wishes to pursue the issuance of an RFP for curbside pickup of trash/recycling/±food scraps, current members of HSWC would be willing to reassemble and consult/advise.

h. next step

Todd will draft report, send to group for comments.

4. Survey draft revisions

a. fix numbering

b. move demographic questions to the end

c. add an overall comment box

d. response categories to our major question (does respondent favor Town dual pickup?):
"absolutely not – probably not – neutral – probably so – absolutely", plus comments text box

e. next steps:

Bethany has edits to make; Todd will edit Bethany's edits, then send along to group

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha McDaniel