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

Meeting convened at 5:40 PM

Agenda:
1. Review/approve minutes from 12-8-14 meeting
2. Discuss planned meeting with Selectboard concerning curbside recycling
3. Other business

Discussed:
1. **12/8/14 meeting minutes**
   Simon moved approval; Shawn seconded; approved unanimously.

2. **preparation for Jan 13, 2015 Selectboard meeting (topic, whether to put FY 2016 curbside recycling on the March ballot)**
   a. what’s the price; will it increase if there’s a marked increase in participation?
      - cf. memo from Rich to Hunter on this topic
      - quoted price for this 1-year agreement, $180,000
      - Jim Toher has agreed that the escalation clause that used to be in the now-long-expired agreement could be removed from a 2015-6 contract

   b. why is the price up so much (20%), especially given that gas prices are down?
      - the $150,000 rate has been in effect for many years without an increase

   c. probable per household per month rate increases for private HSW removal, starting July 1 2015, that we know about:
      Casella $8-12
      More Waste Solutions $6-8
      Oakes $12

   d. which Hartford residents would be “paying twice” (once via taxes, once to haulers) for recycling? (our best estimates of numbers)
      - about 50% use Town-supported curbside recycling (DSM report 2012)
      - 70-80% using haulers
      - 20% going to transfer station and probably recycling there (DSM report 2012)
      - so, 20-40% not using Town-supported curbside recycling

   e. can/will private haulers distinguish among households, to tell which are putting out recycling for them to pick up (vs. using Town-supported curbside recycling)?
      don’t know – will have to ask them

   f. will private haulers likely raise their rates as of July 1, 2015?
      maybe, but...
      - it’s a competitive market (makes it less likely they’ll raise rates)
can’t attribute any rate changes to a single factor (e.g. Town-supported curbside recycling) – for example, the Hartford surcharge for waste originating in Hartford will be increasing from $10 to $15/ton

g. the real cost of continuing Town-supported curbside recycling for “just 1 more year” (“kicking the can down the road”) unknown; it’s likely that bidders could give us a better contract price for a multi-year contract – BUT, the landscape is changing so fast (and we can’t really estimate the net effects of Act 148-mandated changes this year), that seeking a multi-year contract just now doesn’t seem prudent

h. our estimates of real costs to residents of various options:
- Town-supported curbside recycling - ~$3.40/month/household
- private hauler recycling - ~$6-9/month/household

3. other business
a. Enfield / Plainfield – what info would we like?
- # households
- how do they handle long-driveway residences? (any special provisions?)
- what happened to their small private haulers after institution of the town-wide program?

b. followup on the possible issuance of RFP for Town-sponsored combined refuse/recycling pickup
- need info on: probable impact on transfer station; and funding mechanism (learn from Plainfield)
- should we plan to issue this RFP soon?
  § against – impact on small haulers; and
  § there’s likely to be too much rapid change in the next year to make an intelligent recommendation.

c. for further HSWC discussion:
- DSM recommendations (2014 report);
- making recommendation(s) about any changes in transfer station operations
- what might be the best way to transmit our (final) recommendations?
- possible Townwide survey – might be a good tool for community-wide education

d. noted: upcoming “field trip” by Lebanon, Hartford, Norwich, Hanover, UVSRPC representatives concerning composting

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha McDaniel