

HSWC minutes
3-23-2015
4-3-15 version)
(tasks in bold)

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

Meeting convened at 5:40 PM

Agenda:

1. Approve Meeting Minutes -3/9/2015
2. Discuss ideas for Town Recycling/Solid Waste/Composting survey
3. Other business

Discussed:

1. Meeting minutes from 3/9/2015

Typographical and content errors in the draft version were corrected. Bethany moved, and Rich seconded, approval. Unanimous approval.

2. Possible Town-sponsored, curbside pickup of HSW & recyclables

If we re-initiate discussion of this option, public forewarning and education will be critically important. Conducting a Townwide survey and Valley News coverage may be helpful.

3. Survey of Town residents

a. key qualities

- short
- provide education for its own sake, and to clarify questions asked
- avoid jargon

b. what do we most want to learn?

- do residents support Townwide, Town-sponsored pickup of HSW, recyclables, and (ultimately) food scraps?
- what funding mechanism would they prefer: franchise (similar to utility payments); tax-funded; bag- or sticker-purchase-funded? (This question might be beyond appropriate scope just now.)
- can they manage to get totes (covered, wheeled bins; “wheely-bins”) to accessible collection locations? If yes, in winter as well?
- are they currently composting? If not, why not?
- is respondent currently making decisions about HSW disposal mechanism (i.e. doesn’t live in a setting where this is taken care of by someone else)? “At present, do you or does someone in your household choose how to dispose of your own solid waste (trash, recycling, food scraps)?” We ask this because we weigh responses from such people more heavily than responses from non-decisionmakers in interpretation of questionnaire results.
- does respondent household now use the transfer station?

c. educational, frame-setting paragraphs drafted (see appended draft questionnaire)

d. survey distribution & timing

- Harry moved, and Simon seconded, that we “distribute a survey at the Mar 28 Town meeting, to ask the question whether the Town should investigate the possibility of organizing Town-sponsored curbside pickup of trash/recyclables/food scraps”.
- Discussion: Voters might be more responsive in this setting than if we distributed the questionnaire by other means. However, there might be confusion as to whether we were proposing this for a vote on Mar 28 or for sometime in the future. We will likely not have warned the small haulers of this survey possibility or it of its purpose, with perhaps unintended consequences – among other unintended consequences. It’s also a short time frame for drafting and organizing the survey, and we will be left with responses on paper to transcribe.
- Motion defeated (1 in favor, 5 against).
- We will proceed on a more deliberate timescale, and distribute in easier ways: listserv, Town Facebook, Senior Center, perhaps at transfer station on successive Saturdays.

2. Next steps:

- ***Martha will write up this draft survey.***
- ***Simon will post as shared Google doc and send link to all for editing.***
- ***Harry will research the costs in Enfield and Plainfield of costs of curbside combined pickup per household.***
- ***Rich will send list of all Town-licensed haulers to Martha for inclusion in the survey.***

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha McDaniel

Appendix – draft questionnaire
DRAFT HSWC Town Survey 3-23-15

To residents of the Town of Hartford:
The Solid Waste Committee was commissioned in 2013 by the Selectboard to advise it about various aspects of waste management in the Town at this time of rapid change. There are many possible ways in which the Town might alter the ways it handles household trash, recycling, and food scraps. To help guide the process, we’d appreciate learning about you and your preferences.

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY!

1. Do you live in the Town of Hartford? (please check one):
 - no (if no, please don’t complete the rest of this survey. Thank you!)
 - yes (Please go to question 2.)

2. Do you/your household now choose how to dispose of your trash (that is, nobody else manages this for you)?

- no
- yes

IF we were to choose for the Town to sponsor curbside pickup of trash, recyclables, (and perhaps food scraps), here's ROUGHLY what might happen:

- materials would be picked up every other week;
- materials would be picked up from the same locations where recyclables are now picked up in the Town-sponsored curbside recycling program;
- the Town would contract with one company to pick up all materials in Town;
- you'd have to put the materials out in "toters" (covered wheeled containers) that would be provided for you; and
- overall, the cost per household (paid quarterly by bill or covered by your property taxes) would be less than people typically pay now to have their trash removed.

3. Do you favor the idea of Town-sponsored trash pickup as described above?

- no
- yes

4. Could you or your household manage to get a "toter" (covered wheeled container) to the closest public road for trash pickup?

- no
- yes
- unsure

5. Do you currently pay someone directly to take away your trash?

- no (please go to question 6)
- yes

If yes, whom do you pay for this service (please check ONE box only):

- Casella
- More Waste Solutions
- Beauchene's Waste Service
- F. Oakes Disposal
- other

6. Do you use the Hartford Transfer Station?

- no (You are done with this survey. THANK YOU!)
- yes (Please answer Question 7 below.)

7. IF it should happen that the Hartford Transfer Station needs to be open fewer days per week than it is currently open, what would be your TWO most convenient days to use the Transfer Station? (Please check only TWO.)

- Sunday
- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday

You are done with this survey. THANK YOU!