

Lee Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Oct 22, 2018
Board of Selectman 6:30pm, meeting at 7:00pm
Lee Public Safety Complex

Members present: Amy Schmidt, Chair, Arthur Bradbury, Dean Rubine, Randy Stevens, Toby Van Aken (Transfer Station Manager)

Members absent: Matt Smith

Public present: none

History from Randy: Lee Town Crier July-Aug 1970

It appears that after several weeks of operation under the new hours, the dump still presents a problem. Therefore, the Selectmen have given consideration to the various comments and/or complaints as they have received them from residents. One of the most common objections to the new hours was that people who work until late in the day were unable to get to the dump. The Selectmen realize that it is impossible to please everyone, but would like residents to understand that unlimited dump hours can no longer be permitted. Therefore, in an attempt to adjust the open hours to suit more people, the Selectmen announce that the dump will now be open on the following days for the hours specified. Monday and Wednesday 4-8pm. Saturday 9am-6pm.

1. Board of Selectmen Bulky Fee Recommendations and Update Presentation

The SWC presented the proposed Bulky Fee schedule at the Selectman meeting. Thanks to Amy, Randy and Toby for an excellent presentation of the committee's work.

The selectmen seemed ready to proceed to a public hearing to approve the new schedule. Selectman Bugbee suggested the committee consider the implications of eliminating the fees entirely, which the committee will do.

2. Call to order

7:07 pm

3. Approval of minutes of 10/1/2018 meeting.

Changes: Remove clip art icons from the top, reword item about swap shop volunteers and two year olds as "Volunteers should not offer swap shop items to children."

Minutes approved as amended 3-0-1, Arthur abstaining, Toby concurs

4. Discussion of BOS response to presentation.

The Committee thanks Amy and Randy for an excellent presentation to the BOS.

The Committee is pleased with the BOS response to the presentation.

We immediately discussed Selectman Bugbee's proposal to eliminate Bulky Fees.

First the cost of processing the fees was estimated. All the work and costs of disposing of bulky items would be unchanged so the focus was on the costs associated with processing the money, approximately \$20,000 annually, collected through transfer station fees.

The coupon machine requires coupon blanks that cost \$1600 for 3,200, 50 cents per coupon. It has four programmable denominations. 3200 coupons last for about three years so the coupons cost around \$533 per year.

In addition to that, there is the processing time. Toby estimates 3 hours per week of his time plus one hour of Joanne's time; ballpark at \$30/hr is \$120 per week or \$6,240 per year. There is presumably some additional work done by the town once Toby is done.

Just to collect \$20,000 costs around \$7000 per year, a startling overhead of over 1/3. This is a large amount but it still seems worth collecting the fees.

The committee discussed how if we were to eliminate fees, we could see an increase of disposal coming from other towns, perhaps through friends which were Lee residents. It is hard to estimate the size of this effect, but it could easily be thousands of dollars of additional costs to the town of Lee.

The general consensus of the committee was that it wasn't really practical to eliminate the Bulky Fees but we should seek ways to reduce the overhead. A computer based system that reduced the paperwork was discussed. Requiring credit cards or requiring cash payers to pay at town hall first was proposed. Toby thought many Lee residents needed a cash or check option. No changes suggested at this time.

Toby learned at the BOS meeting that the town administrator has been occasionally issuing temporary transfer station permits. The committee thought the town administrator should send a copy to the transfer station manager of any temporary permits issued, preferably by email.

5. Swap Shop

Parking /Time Limits

Review/Update Swap Shop Rules

Complaints/Enforcement of rules

Overuse by some users

Allowable and disallowable items for swap shop

The swap shop has had many issues since it's reopened in its new location. The problems seem to stem from not enough volunteers, and volunteers not enforcing or obeying the rules. The rules for volunteers were reviewed. It was noted that the transfer station manager lacked official authority to enforce these rules. Problems with loiterers and hoarders were discussed. The committee decided to invite swap shop volunteer coordinator Shirley Mckee to the next meeting to discuss the issues.

Toby suggested that the new location on a slope might make it hazardous to keep the swap shop open in icy conditions. The labor required to keep the shop accessible in winter consumes many hours of transfer station workers' time.

Randy moved that the committee recommend to the Board of Selectman that the swap shop be closed from January 1 to March 31 for safety reasons. Amy 2nd. Approved 4-0, Toby concurs.

The swap shop has been closed at times due to lack of volunteers. People have been leaving stuff outside. Rather than having unannounced closings, Toby suggested reducing the hours the swap shop was open so users can have predictability. We will discuss it with the volunteer coordinator.

6. Public outreach/education for residents?

Toby: need to inform residents of changes

All batteries collected; no longer disposing of alkalines in MSW. Separate bin for cat food cans, which make more money than generic metal

Discussion of how to inform residents of transfer station economics.

Methods:

Displays/signs at transfer station

E-Crier

Posts in NeighborLee Facebook group

Randy will explore some updatable thermometer charts at the transfer station, indicating money spent on MSW disposal and money saved by recycling, or whatever he thinks is best to display.

7. New Business

Randy pretty thoroughly explored three options for getting rid of ACs and refrigerators. Will attach Randy's spreadsheet. Options were (1) heavy on Lee labor, separating into bits for maximum reimbursement, (2) minimal labor, reimburse as scrap metal after Freon and capacitor removed, (3) North Coast gets unit for disposal. Option (2) was best.

8. Next Meeting date and topics for Agenda.

Next meeting November 26, 7pm LSC

Agenda topics:

Randy, thermometer

Shirley Mckeon

Toby, \$3000 for Hazardous Waste Day, only 25 households

If a public hearing on bulky fees is scheduled, SWC members should try to attend

IX Public Comments

N/A

X Adjournment

8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted, Dean Rubine