

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2018 at 7:00pm
Lee Public Safety Complex

Approved

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

Members absent: N/A

Public present: N/A

After-the-fact Agenda:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Introductions
- III. Election of Chair, Appointment of Secretary
- IV. Discussion of Charge
- V. General discussion of transfer station
- VI. Discussion of Bulky Fees
- VII. Discussion of Hauling Contracts
- VIII. Follow-ups
- IX. Next meeting
- X. Adjourn

I. Call to Order 7:02 pm

II. Introductions

Toby Van Aken. Transfer Station Manager. Was an employee, took over for Roger Rice when he retired. Spends much time dealing with the recent market fluctuations and changing contracts.

Arthur Bradbury. In Lee since 1979, custom woodworker, environmentalist, BS in Forestry, MS in management, MS in mathematics, and assorted other higher education. Did energy consulting, and redesign of HVAC systems. Arthur likes the UNH program where at year end they dump everything out the window, good stuff gets stored in old chicken coop, bicycles furniture. Matt Smith said the program is Trash to Treasure, started by Alex Fried at UNH in 2010 and now spread nationwide.

Amy Schmidt. Lee since 1989. St. Anselm College Economics Professor, environmentalist

Matt Smith. Lee since 1985. Attended Oyster River schools, PhD from UNH on industrial composting. Designed systems for universities, e.g. Kingman Farm. Working with state committee on follow-up legislation to 2015 Fuller-Clark bill.

Dean Rubine. Lee since 2008, Oyster River since 1995. PhD in Computer Science. Liaison to the Sustainability Committee.

Randy Stevens. Lee since 1952. Dump open same year as born. Was an open burning dump. Can supply history to Committee. Managed transfer station for 12 years as part of his job.

III. Election of Chair, Appointment of Secretary

Dean nominated Amy Schmidt as Chair, Matt seconded. Unanimous vote in favor, 5-0, Toby concurs. Congratulations, Amy.

Committee appointed Dean Rubine secretary, will take and distribute minutes.

IV. Discussion of Charge

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee shall be comprised of five Lee residents who will be appointed by the Select Board.

The charge of this Committee is as follows:

Advise and assist the Select Board and Transfer Station staff regarding the Town of Lee's solid waste management program, with the primary goals of minimizing hauling, disposal and pollution costs and protecting the environment. Key components are:

1. Research new waste disposal technologies and new or changed governmental regulations, and make recommendations for possible new approaches for solid waste disposal
2. Review the handling, transportation, and disposal costs associated with bulky items and make recommendations regarding an appropriate fee structure
3. Investigate changes in the local and worldwide demand for recycled materials and make recommendations for best practices and maximum revenue
4. Investigate ways to achieve reductions in amount of material brought to the transfer station as solid waste
5. Research ways to make composting at the Transfer Station viable
6. Review operations of the Swap Shop and make recommendations to update policies
7. Assist with the Household hazardous waste program
8. Create a public education and communication program to engage the residents, businesses, civic groups, and town committees on all matters related to solid waste disposal and recycling, with an emphasis on encouraging and increasing recycling and reducing solid waste

Committee discussed the broadness of the charge. Toby suggested focusing on Bulky Fee Schedule and Hauling Contract to start.

V. General Transfer Station Information

Dean told Committee that the Lee Sustainability Committee was touring the Transfer Station tomorrow, 8/21, invited LSWAC to attend.

Toby handed out a few spreadsheets and gave us lots of information about the operation and the finances of the Swap Shop. In general for each class of refuse, there is a rate we get paid or pay to dispose of it, a tipping fee. On top of that we pay a hauling fee for the actual trucking to remove the refuse from the transfer station.

Toby said we're doing well compared to other towns dealing with the recent market fluctuations.

Things we need to know about:

MSW - Municipal Solid Waste -- regular trash that ends up in the landfill. \$65/ton to dispose of (tipping), hauling \$235 for 13-16 tons. Dean: That's about \$80/ton combined tipping and hauling.

CD - construction debris

NRRA Northeast Resource Recovery Association. Regional information, Toby suggests one of us attend monthly meeting in Epsom

Lamprey Regional Cooperative -- Coop with neighboring towns which collectively contracts for disposal, hauling

North Coast Services - Company in Portsmouth that recycles electronics, Toby thinks we can get a better deal with them

Swap Shop ribbon cutting 5pm August 28th. Toby suggested change to enforce bulky fee rules. Swap shop attendants require you present a paid ticket when dropping off a scheduled bulky item; you get the ticket back (but not the money) if someone takes the item. Most of us were unfamiliar with the ticket system -- it's a vending machine which requires cash.

Toby talked about recycling alkaline batteries currently being discarded.

VI. Discussion of Bulky Fees

Toby: \$20,000 bulky fee income probably doesn't cover disposal costs. Committee need to look into what we're charging as bulky fees. Fee schedule hasn't changed in 15 years.

Randy: We don't necessarily need to make money or break even on bulky items

Toby:

TVs/Monitors/electronics. Investigating using North Coast Services Portsmouth. Suggest

Mattresses and box springs - discarded in MSW. Average weight unknown.

ACs/Refrigerators. Currently pay \$8/unit to NRRA to recover Freon/HCFCs. Still have labor to manually remove capacitors, separate metal. Takes about 45 minutes labor per unit. Considering doing refrigerant recovery in house like we used to -- will check local regs, finances. FW Webb pays for Freon, etc.

Bulky fees of surrounding towns higher - check Newmarket for example

Ideas: Old electronics - Encourage use of Best Buy -- will dispose of for free.

Ticket machine takes credit cards

Matt: raise prices 2.50 to 5.00

Randy: Worry about dumping in the woods - don't raise prices too high too fast

VII. Discussion of Hauling Contracts

Late in the meeting Toby thought the committee would be better focused on the hauling contracts. Lamprey no longer hauls so we are entertaining vendors. Toby has 3 unofficial bids -- Randy says RFP and formal bidding (or waiver) required by Lee policy.

Toby will email contract information to committee, check on bid policy.

VIII. Follow-ups

All: Transfer Station Tour 8/21 5:30pm

Dean survey other towns' Bulky Fee schedules - make spreadsheets

Randy and Toby -- unit price and weights, average weight per item to compare fee schedule with actual cost

Toby: Calculation for Freon, labor to remove caps and separate out metal

Toby will call state about Freon removal on site

Toby will send committee end of year reports on tickets

Toby will email list of electronic disposal prices

Toby and Randy will create Agenda for next meeting

Dean will contact Denise re proper procedure with the minutes

IX. Next Meeting: 9/10/18 7pm Safety Complex

X. Adjourned: 8:28 pm

Respectfully submitted, Dean Rubine, Secretary