



Lee Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes – APPROVED
July 10, 2018 at 7:00PM
Lee Public Safety Complex

Members present: Paul Gasowski, Chuck Cox (7:45pm), Dean Rubine
Members absent: Matt Rowell, Leslie Adams
Public present: Toby van Aken, Manager, Lee Transfer Station

Non-meeting presentation: Toby van Aken discussed the transfer station with Paul and Dean starting 7:05pm. Chuck joined the conversation with Toby at 7:45 at which time we had a quorum and the meeting was officially called to order.

The LSC had questions for Toby about

- possibility of more extensive municipal composting
- changes to the recycling market, e.g. China
- recycling of Blue Apron & similar packaging (despite claims, much of it is non-recyclable in Lee)
- progress on the Swap Shop

Toby thought the LSC could help educate the public about the market forces that affects what happens once the waste goes over the wall.

Much of the discussion revolved around the Transfer Station's current costs and income .

Everything that enters the transfer station needs to be eventually transferred out of the station. Most of the time that requires hauling, for which we currently pay a rate of \$200 per container or can. A single can may contain 16 to 18 tons of trash.

The main cost to the recycling center is disposal of non-recyclable trash at \$65/ton. The hauling adds approximately \$15 per ton for a total cost to the town of \$80/ton to dispose of garbage.

We discussed how a large percentage of this was food waste, and how if we can increase the composting at home we could reduce the cost to the town of trash disposal.

Aluminum cans in particular and metal in general are the income producing materials for the transfer station. We currently sell our aluminum cans for 79 cents per pound (less hauling) and other metal (tin cans, etc.) for \$120 per ton.

The town makes a significant amount on newspaper, \$65 per ton. [My notes are sketchy on cardboard and mixed paper but I think these are near zero (plus hauling) to dispose of; there's a cost to the town, but significantly less than to dispose of trash.]

The town pays \$30 per ton to dispose of glass (plus hauling). I don't seem to have the numbers for plastic. The town pays about \$4000 per year to dispose of brush.

Toby also discussed capital improvements needed in the swap shop. A new bailer costs \$100K. A scale (to verify the weights of our shipments) costs \$80K-\$100K. New cans are needed at \$6K-\$8K per can.

The town already engages in significant composting of farm and yard waste. Due to the animal content including concerns about animal vaccinations, it is not recommended this compost be used for growing food. It is available for the taking; Toby reports periodically they will move the excess to the nearby town woods where it becomes new topsoil. Toby thinks it would be better to encourage folks to compost food waste at home than at the transfer station.

Re the swap shop; we had heard that there were volunteers not being utilized. Toby reports that there are not sufficient volunteers and that the work was being done by himself and his staff as time permits. No estimated opening date was available.

I. Call to Order at 7:45PM by Paul Gasowski, Chair

Once Chuck arrived the committee decided to write an E-Crier article about what happens when waste goes "over the wall" to educate the townsfolk to be better recyclers by making them aware of the changes in the recycling market. Dean will draft.

Toby offered to give the LSC a tour of the transfer station, which we accepted, time TBD by Paul.

Dean will volunteer for the Solid Waste Committee (Toby reports one remaining slot) and serve as the liaison to/from the LSC.

II. Preliminary Actions

II.A. Introductions: Welcome Transfer Station Manager Van Aken.

II.B. Agenda Approved, absent member reports to be skipped

II.C. Minutes: 6/12/18 minutes approved 3-0 as amended.

II.D. Correspondence/Events: N/A

III. Public Comments: none

IV Discussion Items/Updates

IV. A. Chuck/Toby - see above

IV. B. Paul/Chuck/Dean Lee's Trees.

Chuck and Dean met with Don Quigley. Dean produced a draft contest announcement based on Don's suggestions. LSC discussed improvements; Dean said he would produce new draft accommodating suggestions which Paul would share with many relevant committees. Plan is to kick off contest at the Lee Fair and present awards at a community event in December.

IV.C. Leslie / Divesting / NA

IV.D. Dean created LSC Facebook page; will share E-crier, other content. Plan is to use FB page for Lee's Trees entries.

IV.E. E-crier articles. Dean will work on Transfer Station and separate one about Municipal composting. Matt (not present) working on farm-scale composting article.

F. Booth at the Fair. LSC wants to have a booth; hopes for some sharing of time with other committees. Chuck will talk to Caren Rossi, Paul to Sharon Meeker/Energy Comm.

V. New Business

V.A. Paul: Social with Food. Two events planned: Dean Solar Party July 16 5:30 pm. Lee Tree's award, December.

V.B. Paul town center; progressing, check web site; meeting happening simultaneously next door

V.C. Other - none

VI. Public comments: none

VII: Next meeting Aug 14, 2018, safety complex (Lee Fair 9/8)

VIII. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM