

## Solid Waste Committee Meeting Minutes 12-13-19

Present: Jon, Mike, Tom, Dave & Paul -by Phone

Discussion on January 7 presentation to BOS — to be an interim progress report setting forth our findings about recycling options.

Mike mentioned that there seems to be a consensus that there is general dissatisfaction with Sea Road; cost and travel are the complaints. Tom asked about whether Commercial Recycling (Kennebunk) would accept materials from Kennebunkport residents with a sticker instead of payment, but Mike said they would not as it creates various issues for them.

Mike reported there is still continued concern about what happens to materials as the issue is in the press frequently. So we have to report what we know on that for EcoMaine (for a single sort option) and perhaps bring a rep to a subsequent meeting if called for.

We discussed the transfer station option, it could be open Saturday and Sunday, and perhaps Wednesday after Mike's operation is closed.

Mike reported on a conversation with Bethel (single sort) after visiting. They pay \$7500 a year for hauling every other week because they have a compactor, so there is no need for more frequent pickups. Mike estimates it would be \$25k if not compacted.

Paul reported on a visit to Biddeford, where they accept sorted materials (cardboard, non-corrugated cardboard, glass jars, returns, #1&2 plastic, and tin). Aluminum seems to be dumped with general metals. Not sure whether Biddeford accepts other plastics in their curbside pickup. Mike to ask this when he talks to Biddeford — we assume so if they are sending single sort to EcoMaine.

So the next step is to understand the economics of single sort or separating out as Biddeford does — are economics better for operations like Biddeford than paying \$65 a ton to EcoMaine. Even if we got more for materials, it would have to be offset by more frequent pickups for uncompacted materials.

Two options will be discussed with BOS, curbside and transfer station. After Mike and Jon do the numbers for a transfer station, we should know whether a single sort or a Biddeford Model accepting sorted materials makes the most sense. The advantage of the Biddeford model is that the arguments about what happens to the materials fall away as they do not accept mixed paper and #3,4,5,6 plastics. The disadvantage is those will definitely be landfilled or incinerated if included in regular garbage.

Mike and Jon to work on numbers next week for options. We know the costs for curbside; Mike has priced the compactor at \$40-50K, so the other costs for transfer station operation need to be quantified.

Paul brought up the issue of private haulers at GooseRocks (and perhaps elsewhere) picking up garbage and recyclables in one truck, with the town picking up the tipping fee. Since we are going to incur greater costs if we return to recycling —should we look at other solid waste costs to find ways to reduce costs that enhance the triple R goal? Why pay a higher price per ton for private customers to get rid of recyclables than for those who rely on the town?

The question was asked why we pay the tipping fee and shouldn't the cost just be passed along to users who chose this service. Mike explained the issue has never really been analyzed or considered and it was just always done that way.

The same question is posed again why do we pay for cardboard disposal for businesses when every other town in Maine seems to take a free market approach and lets business pays for that cost? (Note- not mentioned at the meeting but reported here — Paul had checked with the owner of Port Hardware, and he continues to have a vendor who picks up his cardboard for free every few weeks, and there is no cost to him for this service — unlike other businesses in Kennebunk who pay (10C a pound reported by Kennebunk Hardware) for removing their cardboard.

Paul proposed that we include \$ for composting in the transfer station model in order to reduce our tonnage costs for solid waste disposal and take an additional step for the environment (both incineration and landfill leave a worse carbon footprint for kitchen waste compared to composting the same volume of waste.). Mike suggested he could set up a simple operation at the transfer station using the yellow composting bins, and the town could use the compost, or we could give it away to residents. There would be no capital or operating cost, and it would be great to get started this way to see how many residents take advantage of it. The person(s) running the transfer station could add leaves to the bins weekly.

The next meeting was set for Friday, December 20, at 9 am.

Paul Hogan