

Lee Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2019 6:30pm
Lee Safety Complex

Members present: Amy Schmidt (chair), Dean Rubine, Randy Stevens

Officials present: Steve Bullek, Public Works Manager; Cary Brown, Selectman

Public present: Paul Gasowski, chair Lee Sustainability Committee; Jen Messeder, member LSC

I. Call to order

6:35 pm

II. Approval of Minutes

7-22-19 minutes; Amy read suggested changes. Amy moved, Dean 2nd, minutes approved 3-0 as amended.

III. Recycling Market Update, Issues (Steve)

Aluminum cans. Receive 44 cents per pound. Last time April 2018 was \$0.78/lb

Plastic milk jugs. Received 16 cents/lb, last time 39c/lb

Plastic detergent. Receive 5c/lb, was 15c/lb

Plastic #1 Pete (soda): Receive 2c/lb, was 15c/lb

Dean: Better than paying.

Steve: **#1 Pete Problem.** We have bales of #1 Pete that contains some disallowed large water cooler jugs. Any bale with one of these will get an entire truckload rejected which they will be happy to dispose of for us for \$165 per ton.

Dean: We can dispose of them as MSW for \$66/ton. Can't we unbale and remove the large jugs?

Steve: That's the plan. We need to educate about the 2 ½ gallon maximum plastic container limit.

Steve: **Mixed Paper Changes.** Old vendor closed; no more wet strength paper accepted. We have 32 bales weighing 52,600 lbs that includes unacceptable paper. The NRRA looking for a vendor who will take it from us. Dean: we can dispose of it for \$66 a ton as MSW compared to \$40 as mixed paper. $(66-40) \times 29 = \$754$ hit if we have to toss it.

Steve: Since 8/10 transfer station staff Pete and Chip took the initiative to divert incoming wet strength paper into MSW. They may have been too strict, discarding too much, but at least we aren't making our problem of unsellable bales worse. We know now cereal boxes are OK.

Dean: This email from Heather at NRRA says no magazines as mixed paper. Can we make sure on that one before we get the entire town riled up again?

Randy: I'll be at NRRA Wednesday and can get more detail on the mixed paper specifications.

Steve: No wet strength paper with resins, no waxed paper. Craft paper and chipboard are accepted.

Randy: I've been experimenting (demonstrates). Acceptable mixed paper will absorb water, wet strength generally won't; it will bead up. Acceptable paper will easily pulp off when the wet area is rubbed.

Jen: If the product goes in the refrigerator or freezer at the store or at home, it's packaging is generally wet strength paper, unacceptable as mixed paper.

Amy: There are reports that some residents were swearing and cursing at transfer station staff the mixed paper bin.

Steve: Other changes to recycling. Caps are now OK on all three types of plastics.

Steve: Reminder that glass is now just glass bottles or jars. Everything else, Pyrex, toilets, windows, mirrors, etc. is construction debris or MSW.

Steve: In the US 550 million tons of baled mixed paper has been diverted to the landfill.

Jen: Let's separate out magazines in their own bin for now.

Steve: Some good news. The State of NH will pay 15c/pound for recycled electronics. Better deal than NRRA or North coast who we currently use. We might consider removing the bulky fee.

Amy: We shouldn't change the fee schedule every time some change comes along. Let's review the bulky fee list annually. This is about a year since we modified it so we'll put it on the agenda for September. [Committee concurs.]

Randy: They're trying to come up with uses for wet strength paper but the USA is years away from being able to process the amount we used to send to China. We generating too much refuse. Dean: They refuse our refuse.

Dean: I held off the E-Crier article I was supposed to write last time because of all the changes. I'll draft one to submit Thursday for publication this Friday.

Dean: Can we do anything to enforce Mandatory Recycling? We need some income to make up for this lousy market. There's valuable metal in the MSW. [Consensus that educating the public is the best way to increase participation.]

IV. Other Issues

Steve: Some people have issues with the size of the stickers and they don't like sticking them on their nice car. Steve suggests smaller stickers, different color. Town clerk has indicated that the new stickers can be included with registrations. Transfer station distribution also available. Dashboard and visor placement is acceptable. Stickers will have license plate numbers that have to match vehicle.

Committee likes all this and concurs that Steve will handle the new sticker project as best he sees fit and report back.

Steve: It's Hazardous Household Waste Day Saturday.

Dean: I'll post on Facebook and mention it in the E-Crier article.

Composting Pilot Implementation Update (Steve)

Steve: Program going well. We sent of additional bins of 285 lbs and 243 lbs. I bought two more packs of bags. Participants seem to like it. We may want to recommend a permanent program.

Dean: We're losing money. When we have more data we'll prepare a report for the selectmen.

Amy: Are we keeping records?

Steve: I have it all recorded.

Dean: I promised to investigate more robust bags, but I didn't do it. Next time.

Dean: Any word on the NHDES Municipal Composting Regulations?

Randy: Don't hold your breath.

Paul: The Ag Commission and the Sustainability Committee are planning for composting at the Lee Fair. This year we're going to just collect food waste. 300 ears of corn. Lots of chicken bones. Steve, can you bring the three compost bins over for the Fair?

Steve: I may have more than three bins available that I can bring.

Paul: That will be great. We want volunteers to help citizens compost, 5-8 pm.

Amy: I can do a shift.

Paul: Dean, should we distribute compost program flyers at the Fair?

Dean: Good idea.

[Somebody]: Maybe just one copy; people can take a photo.

Paul: What happens to the garbage at the end of the Fair?

Steve: We bring it over to the transfer station with the bucket loader that night.

IV. Swap Shop Update (Steve)

Problems mentioned last meeting are under control, solved.

Flat screens tvs in swap shop; take money for bulky fees

\$5 for dressers? Suggest changes to bulky fee schedule? Cmte: Leave it be for now

Shirley: We'll keep track of how many we get.

Shirley: Stickers working ok, bulky fee tab

Steve: I'm still working on the acceptable item list, cleaning supplies for volunteers

Steve/Shirley: The parking lot is working out well. The fence near there will be fixed/finished in mid August.

VI. Website (Amy) -Tabled

VII. Public Comment

Paul Gasowski, chair of the Lee Sustainability Committee

We're kicking off the Use Less campaign at the Fair. We have a monthly theme, starting with Reduce in September. Contest: Most Useless Item in Your Household. Future events on "Where does it go?" when it leaves the transfer station, Swap Shop Treasures, a Repair Workshop and December Zero Waste Dinner. Prizes will be locally grown or made items.

Cary: Port City Maker Space might want to get involved with Fix-It event

Paul: The Backyard Farming Initiative wants to carry these themes into next year with their lecture series at the Grange.

Paul: Does the Solid Waste Committee want to partner with the Sustainability Committee on the Use Less program?

Dean: I move the Solid Waste Advisory Committee partner with the Sustainability Committee on the Use Less program. Amy: 2nd. 3-0 approved.

VIII. Next Meeting date and topics for Agenda - Monday September 30th, 6:30 pm

Agenda:

Website

Bulky fees

Market Update

Compost Update

Etc.

IX. Adjournment - 7:59 pm