

Minutes

12-9-02

7:30 am

Durham Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee

Present: Diana Carroll, chair; Julie Newman, facilitator; Richard Gallant, Guy Hodgdon, Annmarie Harris, Town Council Rep; Jessie McKone, recorder

The minutes of the 11-15-02 meeting were approved.

Agenda Topics directly below correspond to numbered paragraphs which follow:

1. Composting Poster for Durham MarketPlace (DMP)
2. Reports from the Superintendent of Solid Waste
 - a. Recent Household Hazardous Waste Collection/questions about mercury-containing thermostats
 - b. Statistics on use of biodegradable paper leaf bags in town/possible future private leaf pick-up
3. Contract with Waste Management, Inc.
4. Proposal for privatization of waste collection
5. Swap Shop update
6. Paper recycling initiative at ORMS and ORHS
7. Purchasing chlorine-free paper with 80% recycled content
8. Next meeting

1. Julie will suggest to the owner of DMP that the new poster advertising the composting project be moved to a more visible location. Moving the poster to the check out area or directly over the produce were two suggestions. Richard suggested including the poster graphic on the IWMAC portion of the Durham web site. A message on DCAT about the poster at DMP might also promote viewing.

2a. Statistics about the recent hazardous waste collection are available through Shari at Public Works. She prepares a report as part of the grant requirements. Diana would like the committee to see information about numbers served, numbers of gallons of materials collected and numbers of people unable to be served due to budget limitations. Guy reminded us that the funding for the collection will be requested annually through the town budget. Guy will be attending an upcoming seminar about state regulations (what can and cannot be kept on site at the SWMF, etc.). The committee would like to inform local home remodelers that old thermostats (containing mercury) be left with the homeowner to keep for hazardous waste collection. Richard will ask Tom Johnson (Durham Code Enforcement Officer) if a regulation regarding this can become part of the building permit requirements.

2b. Doug Bullen of Public Works is preparing a report on the Fall Clean Up. He may be able to report on the frequency of use of biodegradable paper leaf bags this year. The committee would like to look at the report. Annmarie reminded the committee that a resident has suggested that the town not conduct leaf pick-up because of the expense. Durham's leaves are currently trucked to Epping, because regulations do not allow composting of leaves at the Durham SWMF. Kingman Farm does not accept leaves because they may be contaminated with debris. The committee may investigate options so as to be able to make a recommendation to the Town Council.

3. The Solid Waste contract with Waste Management, Inc. will be adjusted based on the Consumer Price Index for the next 5 years. The result of this negotiation is significantly lower fees than what Waste Management, Inc. had been proposing.

4. Since Waste Management, Inc. had the low bid during the RFP process for collection and disposal of refuse and recyclables from the curb, the town's administration has been in talks with WMI to try to establish favorable details to a possible agreement. Most standard contracts for private collection have a duration of 3-5 years. Durham is seeking a 10-year contract that will lock in savings. The savings to the town in contracting with WMI will be in the vicinity of \$50,000+ per year. Other features include an agreement to be able to renegotiate if fees or costs drastically change, first refusal for hiring to former town employees, payment based on tonnage collected rather than based on the number of stops that exist in town, ability of maintenance staff to focus on fire vehicles since the town won't maintain refuse trucks, and paper and co-mingled recyclables will all be picked up each week. Committee concerns include questions about the quality of service and response from a private company and concern about the effect on current town employees. Another concern is the question of how big an increase Durham will be faced with after the initial ten-year contract. Will Durham be forced to continue with the "conglomerate" because it no longer owns it's own trucks ? What negotiating power will Durham have then ? Waste Management will not be involved with Spring or Fall Clean Up. These functions are currently handled using Highway Dep't. vehicles and labor. Cost for these two programs are in the range of \$40,000 per year total. The Spring and Fall Clean Up are a totally separate function from the weekly curbside collection of refuse and recyclables and was not a part of the RFP. These issues will be brought before the Town Council in January, or as soon as the budget process is completed.

5. Information about the winter operation of the Swap Shop will be included in the Public Works mailer. The mailer will be out prior to the new year. The Swap shop volunteers are staying for shorter periods of time because of the cold weather. The Public Works staff has been helpful in directing bulky items away from the Swap Shop during winter. Tracy recently sent an electronic update to Swap Shop volunteers. The aforementioned mailer includes information for residents about the new Solid Waste Ordinance.

6. The paper recycling bins are in. ORHS and ORMS will begin using the royal blue, 14 gallon bins in classrooms in January. Communication with the respective staffs is needed before the plans with the new bins go into effect. "Recycled Percussion" (sponsored by the PTO) performed in an assembly at ORHS. Introductions included a plug for the use of the new bins. Discussions about funding are nearly complete. NH the Beautiful has it logo on one side of each bin. Their subsidy has been very important to our success.

7. Since the USNH will be purchasing chlorine-free, 80% recycled-content paper at truckload prices, the cost for this environmentally friendly product will be reasonable. The USNH will distribute paper as needed and may be able to offer the town the truckload price. Julie is awaiting word from Todd Selig and Lisa Beaudoin as to further action on the part of the Town. The committee strongly encourages this collaboration and will try to help stress using less paper to promote further savings.

8. The next meeting is set for Monday, January 6th at 7:30 am at Town Hall.
The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

News articles shared:

The New Hampshire (Dec. 6): "Litter on Lawns Equals a Hefty Fine" about provisions in Durham's new Solid Waste Ordinance adopted 11-18-02

Foster's Daily Democrat (Dec. 2): "Mandatory Recycling Possible" in Portsmouth

Audubon Dec. 2002: "Who Needs Landfills Anymore?" about digester technology on Nantucket Is. in MA.