

Solid Waste and Recycling Committee
July 17, 2019 Meeting
The meeting opened at 7:30 a.m.

Present were: Wendy Carr – Chair; Ray Emerson, Debby Wheelock, Jan Limmen, Tammy Willey, Otty Merrill, Tim Polky, Ben Caron, Jane Bracy, Kate Johanson

Minutes for the May meeting were approved.

The visit to Eco Maine in Portland in June was discussed. Those who attended agreed the recycling part of the facility is not adequately staffed in relation to the size of the facility and volume of material being sorted. We noted few people picking out items that were in the wrong category, resulting in contaminated bales. We figure bales of recyclables from St. George are valuable because they are essentially pure. We noted the utterly tremendous volume of trash Eco Maine handles—that as a society, we create an abundance of trash. As a result, ways of reducing trash is always part of discussions during meetings.

Transfer station issues: Returnable bottles are still often placed in the glass bin. Any ideas for guiding citizens to use the returnable bottle room are welcome. An idea for possibly fencing off the area surrounding the second-hand shop was floated. The purpose would be to make the bottle room door appear more accessible. The used cardboard dealer in Thomaston has stopped taking our cardboard for the foreseeable future.

The St. George School is recycling cardboard, mixed paper and food cans.

'Do You Know' facts will be written and given to Ben Vail for the town newsletter by Wendy, and to Betsy at St. George Dragon by Kate.

Kate will finish the new recycling information brochure.

Review of roadside cleanup day: mostly it went quite well. Jane noted that it would be a good idea to postpone Monhegan Boat tickets as an incentive for next year. We could review the idea for 2021 cleanup day.

Compost is not available for sale at the moment, we are sold out.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Next meeting is Wednesday, August 21.