

Solid Waste and Recycling Committee
May 16, 2018

The meeting opened at 7:30 AM.

Present were Wendy Carr – Chair, Ray Emerson, Otty Merrill, Tammy Willey, Tim Polky, Jan Limmen, Eben Polky, Jane Bracy, Kate Johanson

Spring Cleanup Day was reviewed – Cleanup went well this year. Many of the volunteers wore the bright yellow vests we bought. The vests will be stored at the Transfer Station for next year. Using the big map of the town to help people indicate what area they would clean up worked. The problem areas (where there is often a lot of trash) were cleaned up. Thank you to Skip Bracy for driving around and picking up the bags from the roadside, and the Blackmers for continuing to pick up road litter throughout the year. The idea of having Spring Cleanup on Earth Day was discussed again, but it was agreed that April is too early, often snowbanks are still present and would hide some of the roadside trash.

Evening hours – Evening hours one day a week were discussed again. We will recommend to the Select Board that the Transfer Station be open until 7:00 on Tuesday or Wednesdays June through September as a test.

The committee is willing to help people sort their items for recycling when needed and when citizens are open to have the help.

The sign ‘St. George Solid Waste Facility’ is down, old, and the plywood is coming apart. It’s time for a new sign. Kate will talk to sign painters to see about having a new one made.

Household Hazardous Waste – Having a hazardous household waste company (such as Clean Harbors) come and take away items such as rat poison, cleaning products or chemicals that citizens may have in their garages, sheds, homes was discussed again. The cost is around \$6,000. It’s possible to get a grant to help cover the cost. Wendy will see if there are any grants available. It would be held as a one day event with plenty of time in advance to notify the public.

The idea of a paper shredding event possibly for next spring was discussed. Maybe, again, in conjunction with the Business Alliance.

The only commercial hauler in town separates cardboard, so that’s a good thing. Generally, we don’t want cardboard in the compactor.

We have accumulated a bale of textiles. Eben will take to Goodwill in Brunswick in the Town truck soon to have them evaluate it. They only want textiles, not shoes, or belts, just clothing items made of fabrics.

Ideas for the St. George Days parade were discussed. Something that would indicate we take all E-waste year round might be a good idea. Dress up as computers and walk in the parade? We have plenty of time to work out that one, July is a ways off. Otty will be thinking about that.

We may need to revisit fees for brush – we have a massive pile of chips. It would be great to be able to sell all of it.

Compost is ready to sell for \$3 a Mussel Farm box. It's good stuff.

Plastics such as milk jugs and laundry detergent jugs, while two different types of plastics, are valuable to commercial recyclers. Ways to encourage people to, at the minimum, place their milk and laundry detergent jugs in the recycling windows was discussed. It would be great to come up with a way to inform the public that it costs a lot more to the town to haul those plastics to Norridgewok to the landfill than to separate them and recycle them. Cost Avoidance is the key.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00. Next meeting is Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 AM.