

Solid Waste and Recycling Committee
August 15, 2018 Meeting

The meeting opened at 7:30 AM.

Present were: Wendy Carr – Chair; Ray Emerson, Jane Bracy, Kate Johanson,
Tammy Willey, Debby Wheelock,

Wendy, with chairs of other committees, met with the select board and explained that the best time for our committee to meet is at 7:30 a.m. We will do our best to accommodate if a citizen wants to attend a meeting and cannot come at that time.

In our efforts to inform the public, Wendy will send a monthly 'blurb' about recycling, or what's happening at the Transfer Station to Cheri to publish in the town newsletter or website.

More discussion on presenting a speaker sometime in the fall was discussed. Possibly in conjunction with the library. Bob Caldwell, of WCSH TV returned Debby's call about a segment that had been on his show '207' about someone who practices zero waste. We may not find someone who practices zero waste to speak, but maybe someone who knows a lot about recycling, garbage and what happens to it in the U.S, or plastics and packaging. The hope is to raise awareness about trash and what we do with it, and how individuals can learn more to do their part in reducing it.

It has been noticed that out-of-town visitors sort recyclables incorrectly sometimes. Most cottage owners post instructions on how we sort recyclable items, but not everyone gets it right. We've discussed at length how to help fix this problem. There is no doubt that plastics sorting is the most complicated. We hope that the samples attached to designated windows will help people sort correctly. We are working on ideas to help everyone with sorting.

All the Transfer Station employees are trained in forklift safety.

421 tons of chipped brush was trucked away at a cost of \$5,355.10. It was a massive pile. 77 tons went to the Rockland quarry cover project.

Two 500-gallon tanks will be installed at the Transfer Station. They will be for diesel and for gasoline for Town vehicles; buses, plow trucks, etc. They will be set on the grassy area between the rigid plastic bin and Wallston Road.

Some municipalities have banned the use of styrofoam take-out containers, and single-use plastic bags in their towns, in an effort to reduce litter. We would like to head in that direction; making steps to reduce waste. It would take time, and support from the select board, and support from the citizens. We think if the citizens are informed about the impact of plastic waste, they will support a ban.

Discussion of another shredding event—maybe in the spring? It costs roughly \$700 to have the shredding truck set up for a day. It was a success this year.

Overall, the committee is open to any ideas for reduction of waste. Wendy and Kate will get together and compose a poster that explains our system for sorting recyclables.

Minutes from the July meeting were approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 19, at 7:30 a.m.