

ARSWC July 2021 Meeting Minutes

Introductions

Attending:

Katie Smith, John Hinds, Bill Nickerson, Paul Schlein, Roz McLean, Nadine Devries, Lisa Johnson

Absent: Ros Arienti

Approve May Minutes delayed due to Ros's computer issue

Town Meeting update:

Katie spoke about:

Marking bins with stickers

Rubber band collection

Freecycle page launch

Invitation for a new member

All received well. No comments. Budget passed.

Committee positions available (vice chair, help with shed)

Nadine is offering, with reservations, to take the vice chair position, once she is an official resident later in the summer.

John is looking for support handling the recycling of items such as: prescription bottles, cds, cables.

Paul: editor, institutional memory

Ros: secretary

Katie: would like to be out of the chair position, and would take on other responsibilities

Roz: Bookkeeper

Contracts

Challenging. They arrive too late for budgeting purposes. Try to begin negotiations and get the contracts earlier, if possible. Katie will send group email to Rogers and Casella requesting pricing for next fiscal year prior to April 1.

Select Board was not worried when Katie explained the surprise 23% increase for recycling. They figured that the contract amounts will ultimately balance out between trash and recycling.

Current Rogers Contract: Katie picked up that there is a flaw in the contract. Last year's contract was for 11 months. The annual fee was divided by 11 not 12. This year, they took the monthly figures for trash and recycling from last year and multiplied it by 12, adding \$238 per month for recycling. Katie will email Nancy Rogers about this before the Select Board signs the contract.

Casella contract: previously approved by email exchange

Recycling issues in town (Paul)

Recycling pickup concern and question about whether new residents are getting information about trash and recycling schedule and other info.

Neighbor of Paul's: two weeks ago, trash truck put all their plastic recycling in the trash, left the rest to be recycled. No action to be taken at this time. Second complaint: new people moving onto Old Stage Rd. Huge bags of yard waste put out for trash were picked up by Rogers. Yard waste usually is composted on people's property, or dropped at Bath Landfill for a fee. Is there a new owners package for people moving into town? Are our documents available in that and are they updated? Paul will ask Barbara and Sheila. Put in Sheila's newsletter: Note to new homeowners, if you have not received a homeowners packet, please refer to the town website for ways to recycle items like yard waste.

No "Left Behind" slips noticed recently.

New law in ME

Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging. Putting some of the cost of recycling back on the companies that make at least \$5 million annually.

HHW Update

Conversation with Michael Tucker, administrative assistant, Bath Public Works (Paul)

Many glitches for us. Private company takes all registrations. Arrowsic not registered due to shared zip code with Bath.

Michael says that these problems with registration should not happen again. They will fine tune the process for the future. This was the first year that they reached their quota and had to turn people away.

We used to get a summary sheet of registered items right before the collection day. This year they had a software incompatibility. We can expect a list next year.

Commercial units: we had 5 units of paint thinner from a painting contractor who is an Arrowsic resident. Is that a Town service for a business? Michael said they would discuss this at BPW.

Paid disposal alternatives: Depot in Lewiston, Riverside in Portland.

Freecycle

Five posts so far since June 18. Paul is the administrator. No posted signals as to whether and where they have gone. Ad for Freecycle will be in the Arrow.

Repair Cafe

What is next? Select Board has discussed this. They were of the opinion that those wanting to repair something don't need a town website connection when they could find a Youtube video to show how to do it. Did not like the homemade video idea. Possible legal issues around offering a repair service in the town. Does the Select Board need to check with Maine Municipal Association about that?

Should we try to post a sample video library and see what the response is?

Repair cafe subcommittee: Paul, Nadine, Ros will get together to set goals and articulate them for the Select Board.

Shed report (John)

Rechargeable batteries: 11 Lb. A large light fixture came and went. Recycling is going on there all the time. More swap items are being left, even though we don't take them. Shed expansion talk with the Properties Committee was left with the second proposal that included the swap shed. Little Fire Barn was suggested. Properties Committee wasn't ready to commit on housing Broadband there nor on our proposal to use some of the space.

Is there a committee member who would take on this communication with the Properties Committee? Grant proposal may be involved. Need to make plan with PC this year for a town vote next summer. Katie will reach out to Malcolm Persen on the PC to see where they are on this.

Resident calls

Katie had the lady with tires, Paul with the trash/recycling pick-up issues above.

Other Items

Katie took smoke detectors to Landfill. Amanda was on vacation. Person covering did not know what to do with them. Katie had to go back when she was back. Non residents will now be charged for general recycling. Katie will call Amanda about what this means for the few items we take from Arrowsic. LED bulbs can go in the trash. The Landfill will take CFL's and will also take the LEDs for recycling.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 19, 5:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:00

Respectfully Submitted,
Roz McLean