

ARSWC November 21, 2019

Present: Jon Biehler, John Hinds, Bill Nickerson, Paul Schlein, Katie Smith, Roz McLean

Absent: Ros Arienti

Approved October minutes

Zero Waste next steps:

Jon and Paul: Arrowsic or regional repair cafe. Location? Private? Public? Bath? We have a possible contact there. Liability concerns from the Select Board. Waiver to be signed by participants is a possibility that others have used. Is there a model from another town? Belfast? Diversify the focus for each cafe: electrical, etc. and offer them often. Attend a working cafe in Belfast Saturday, December 7. 9-1. Jon, Paul and Bill can go.

Have Megan Prior from DEP (?) to one of our meetings to help us. Jan. or Feb.

Background materials:

--Swiss fixit cafe article: <https://www.jungfrauzeitung.ch/artikel/177291/>

--Belfast Community Works Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/bcwmaker/events>

--DEP repair clinic documents:

[How to start a repair clinic](#) [pdf] - Learn how to organize a repair clinic, where people come together to learn how to fix things.

<https://www.maine.gov/dep/waste/recycle/documents/starting-a-repair-clinic.pdf>

[Resources for repair](#) [pdf] - These resources can help you learn how to repair everything from clothing to laptop computers. <http://www.cvswmd.org/repair-cafe-tool-kit.html>

Feedback from residents who attended the Zero Waste presentation: request for an energy presentation. We think that may not be our purview, and may be a distraction.

ARSWC Plastic Bag Bill and Plastic Film handout. New bill says that as of April 22, 2020, retailers have to stop using single-use plastic at check-out. May use other plastics only if they offer recycling of these bags. Most local grocery stores, Target, Lowes have recycling bins out now for plastic film. Paul will check our flyer against State information and amend our handout. Make a Town Notice if there are changes. Compostable bags not recyclable in this way. Paul will call Trader Joe's to see what theirs are made of.

Budget questions from Select Board

Concerns that we may not have budgeted enough for 2019-20. We think we have at \$150/ton. Roz will run numbers so far this fiscal year and report to Sukey. Katie checked in with Erica in Sept. about contamination. We are doing well. Katie will ask why we are being charged more than EcoMaine charges.

2020 Pick Up schedule

Katie will do that and send it out for double-check.

Facility/Hauler research update

Goal: explore alternative haulers, and end consumers of our waste. Why are we considering changing? Not for profit, more sustainable, lower transportation costs, environmental concerns (trash to energy vs. landfill). Support for local business should be considered.

Katie spoke with Craig. He has a new truck, is local and is always responsive. However, he can't afford to

haul our trash to *ecomaine*. We could split the trash and recycling. Ex. Craig takes trash, and another hauler takes our recycling to *ecomaine*. *Ecomaine* prefers our trash for energy production. They will fine towns for contamination of recycling.

Riverside in Augusta currently takes both trash and recycling from Woolwich to *ecomaine*. Katie will ask them about hauling one vs. both.

Scott from *Riverside* (won't talk about transportation as a separate cost) and Lissa Bitterman from *ecomaine* might come to a meeting with us to present a proposal. *Ecomaine* will give a price over the phone. Katie will talk with Lissa there to ask for costs, transportation partnership, contract length, and process for Select Board.

Jon will ask Woolwich about their experience with both *Riverside* and *ecomaine*.

Casella does it all: transports both trash and recycling. Katie has asked what their rates would be for hauling our trash to another facility, with no reply.

Thomaston Recycling Inc won't handle curbside. The contact suggested other small companies that might.

Fiberight is another option. They are being watched with skepticism.

Would Victor Horton have insights?

Research is ongoing. Spreadsheet has been started.

Shed Report and hard to recycle items-John

Items left in Shed: Steam iron, radar system from a boat, LED lights with solar collectors, a sensor from some type of smoke or CO detector, 2 LED bulbs (these contain a significant amount of metal, aluminum perhaps), 2 unidentified devices. In addition, 4 CFL bulbs and 1 marine battery (like a car battery), which are covered in our signage and guidelines to be recycled elsewhere.

Slow stream of these items. Not overwhelming. Catalysts for researching recycling options.

John met NorthCoast E-Waste driver. Headquarters are in Concord, NH. Place on southern Midcoast where they sort. Driver was based in Hamden, ME. Driver took everything, even non-electronic items.

John will create a manual for the Shed. Katie will ask Properties Committee about painting the Shed.

Resident Calls: none

Other items: With 2020 calendar, send out link to brochures.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 19, 5:30

Meet adjourned 7:15 PM