



Recycling Sustainability Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, April 9th, 2019

5:30pm

Hudson Town Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Committee members present: Steven Sharek (chair) Michael Delfino (vice chair), Sean Frey, Jacqueline Gillis, Jillian Jagling, Fred Lucy II, Kathryn Nardozza

New business

- 1. Call Meeting to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm. All committee members were present. Also present was Kelli Calo (Director of Public and Community Health), Irene Congdon (MassDEP rep), John Melillo (resident), and Tom McCoy (resident).
- 2. Approval of Minutes of March 26, 2019:** Michael Delfino motioned to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Fred Lucy. All in favor.
- 3. Report on Use of Transfer Station:** Kelli Calo stated that in FY2018, 1,694 transfer station passes were administered to residents. This includes residents that get a transfer station pass for overflow, bulky items, and yard waste. In Hudson, there are a total of 7,705 households. Irene Congdon stated that the 1-3 family households are about 5,500.
- 4. BP contract:** The RSC was sent a copy of the BP contract following the meeting on March 26th. Jillian Jagling asked if the RSC could receive a copy of the most recent annual report from BP. Kelli Calo confirmed that she will provide this. Jacqueline Gillis stated that the contract called for signs at the transfer station to be in both English and Portuguese, but that they are currently only in English. Michael Delfino stated that the BP contract falls under the Board of Health, and that input is always welcome at the Board of Health meetings.
- 5. MassDEP: Recycling/ Curbside Options:** Irene Congdon presented a PowerPoint for solid waste options to give the Recycling Sustainability Committee ideas on what programs are available. The RSC determined that the PowerPoint will be made available on the website, once created.

- a. Currently, based on 5,500 1-3 family households, residents are collectively paying over \$2,210,000 in solid waste collection and disposal. Town contracted communities pay roughly \$250-\$350/year. Based on \$300/year, a town contracted program with 5,500 residents would collectively pay \$1,650,000.
- b. Options include: town-contract where residents pay a flat fee, town-contract SMART program (pay-as-you-throw bags or cart), town-contract in tax base, continue transfer station only, educate residents about the haulers and options available in town, and private subscription.
- c. Frequency options: weekly trash (cart size to be determined) and weekly recycling in 64 gallon carts, or weekly trash (cart size to be determined) and every other week recycling in 96 gallon carts
- d. Billing options: direct billing by the trash/recycling hauler, direct billing by the Town, billing by a town utility company on an electric bill, or billing by a town DPW on a town sewer bill

6. **Cost Comparisons from the Region:** Irene Congdon gave cost comparisons for non-tax based programs for: Bellingham (\$350/year, 64 gallon trash cart with bulky items included), Dunstable (\$300/year with 35 gallon trash cart), Mendon (\$250/year with 4-33 gallon trash bags per week), and Gardner (\$200/year with 48 gallon trash cart). Currently, the average cost for trash for Hudson curbside pick-up is \$500 private subscription.

7. **Review Updated Results of “Hudson Trash and Recycling Survey”:** Sean Frey stated that he is sorting through the data on Excel. Once complete, Sean Frey stated that he will then be able to cross-analyze the data for more specific results. He stated that this will be complete by the next RSC meeting. Based on the current data sorting, Sean Frey stated that the average cost that residents are paying for trash removal is \$440/year. This number includes those who have private curbside pickup and those who utilize the transfer station.

8. **Discuss Process for Decision-Making by the Committee/Next Steps:** It was determined by the RSC to hold off on next steps until the next meeting.

9. **Community Outreach and Engagement Efforts:** Sean Frey stated that this does not need to be an agenda item on each agenda, however, that the RSC consider community outreach and engagement throughout all discussions. Irene Congdon suggested to the RSC that creating a website to host information on the committee is typically done in other towns/cities. Kelli Calo stated that she will work with Eron Dilo to get the RSC on the Town Website. Fred Lucy suggested creating a page that links the Board of Health to the Town Website and we use language that is relatable to the survey sent in January.

10. Assign Tasks for Next Meeting:

- a. Complete data sorting (Sean Frey/Kelli Calo)

- b. Create website/page for the RSC (Kelli Calo/Sean Frey)
- c. Send out Hauler Regulation to the RSC and look into the mechanism for requiring individuals to recycle (Kelli Calo)
- d. Determine how many households are served by BP for curbside currently (Kelli Calo)
- e. Gather annual reports from BP trucking (Kelli Calo)
- f. Send out PowerPoint of Solid Waste Options and Marketing to RSC (Irene Congdon)
- g. Provide RSC members with sample contract language between a hauler and a Town for trash collection and recycling (Irene Congdon)

11. Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 23rd, 2019 at 5:30pm.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.