

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
June 30, 2009

Present: Smith, Knox (acting chair), Roberts, Ames, Hultgren (staff), Walton (staff)
Visitors: Bob Coughlin, Caitlin Dineen (Chronicle reporter)

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m.

The minutes of the January 22, 2009 were approved.

Walton reported that the first meeting of the sustainability committee was June 23, 2009. The committee's first task is to research model sustainable communities and benchmarking tools.

Walton reported that she and Mr. Coughlin toured the new single stream sort equipment at Willimantic Waste Paper on June 2, 2009. All recyclables they receive, whether collected dual stream or single stream, are being put through the single stream equipment. The bales of paper were free of contaminants, and, according to Willimantic Waste Paper, the receiving Canadian mills have not given any negative feedback.

At the state capitol, the bottle bill expansion passed to include water bottles. The five cent fee for retail paper and plastic bags did not pass. Staff will follow-up with information on how the Westport, CT bag ban is proceeding.

Walton stated that all grades of plastic containers can now be recycled because the new Willimantic Waste Paper equipment has an optical plastic sorter. Staff will be notifying residents of the plastics recycling expansion.

Walton reported that about 4 tons of usable household items were collected and dispersed to local charities during UConn's move-out, "Give and Go". The individuals she worked with were hard working, organized and represented key departments of the University. This first year experience was considered a success.

Walton gave an update on blight/litter issues. She worked with student volunteers on three community service days, with mixed success. The committee recommended signing up for one service day this fall. She has inspected rental properties immediately after trash service is discontinued before the renter service deposit is returned, which has prevented a few problems. This year Walton will work with UConn off campus housing through their community student leaders to enlist student Adopt-A-Road volunteers.

Hultgren stated that the recommendation to simplify the single-family service levels had not yet been presented to Town Council due to the poor economy. Walton stated the number of 50 gallon cans being used for service is on the increase. The committee

agreed to wait until the economy brightens to address can size and removing bag equivalence from the Solid Waste Regulations. However, staff will remove the bag equivalence from the brochure to make the service levels clearer for new sign-ups and to recommend to Town Council an increase in the in-yard fees to cover the Town's cost.

Walton reported that an E.O. Smith student group, the Green Teens, received a \$10,000 grant to start a school composting program. Walton met with them, the supervising teacher and the maintenance director this week to pick a compost bin location. The Green Teens will work with the summer school shop class to build the compost bins, using the elementary schools' design. They hope to have it ready for the start of school.

Hultgren reviewed Willimantic Waste Paper's proposal to end the Eastern Connecticut Paper contract one year early in order to enter into a single stream contract. After comparing the costs and revenue of the current Eastern Connecticut Paper contract to the single-stream contract, the committee recommended changing to the single-stream contract. Staff will take their recommendation to the next Town Council meeting. There was discussion about the implications of single-stream on collection. Willimantic Waste Paper has suggested that the transfer station use a compactor for the cans, bottles, paper cardboard grouping in order to reduce hauling costs. Staff will look into this possibility. Mayo and Sons, the single-family contractor, has expressed concerns about the littering of paper as it is dumped into the truck if it is no longer bagged or tied. Staff will focus publicity on how to secure it, tie it or cover it. Staff will find out if broken glass will now be acceptable. Walton stated that Holinko Estates would be interested in piloting the use dumpsters for the single-stream sort.

Mid-NEROC is now offering one-day satellite household hazardous waste collections. For the cost of \$1,200, participating towns may take advantage of an in-town hazardous waste collection. The committee did not recommend doing this since Mansfield is relatively close to the Willington facility.

Walton will be contacting members this summer to arrange volunteer coverage for one of the Festival on the Green's waste stations. The Festival is scheduled for September 13, 2009.

The next scheduled meeting is scheduled July 23, 2009, if it is not cancelled. The meeting after that would be September 24. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Lon R. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk