

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
July 18, 2013

Present: Knox (chair), Coughlin, Milius, Ames, Hultgren (staff), Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by chair Knox.

The minutes of the May 9, 2013 meeting were accepted as amended.

The committee reviewed a comparison of the two bids for the single-family contract. The Town received a bid from HQ Dumpster, out of Southington, CT and Willimantic Waste Paper Company. The lowest bid by HQ Dumpster was to continue trash service as it is currently being done. However, in contacting references, HQ Dumpster does not have experience with residential curbside service. Both companies bid on automated service, with Willimantic Waste Paper being the lowest bidder. The committee concurred with staffs' recommendation to accept Willimantic Waste Paper's bid for automated service providing four service levels ranging from 20 gallons to 96 gallons and limited in-yard service. It is anticipated that trash rates will increase about 6%. A meeting will be scheduled for August 29, 2013 to determine the new trash rates, before going to Town Council on September 9, 2013.

Walton suggested that one or two committee members help her research strategies that other communities have taken to become zero waste communities and develop recommendations for the committee to review. Knox volunteered to help with the research. Walton will provide a list of relevant zero waste websites at the next meeting. Coughlin suggested using a term other than zero waste, since the goal is to minimize waste rather than eliminate it.

Hultgren stated that the municipal solid waste contract with Willimantic Waste Paper has ended. After researching what other Connecticut communities are paying per ton in tipping fees, it was discovered that the Town's charge of \$72/ton is high. Rather than going out to bid, Willimantic Waste Paper is willing to charge \$60/ton with a 2.5% increase per year for the next five years. Staff will ask the Director of Finance to extend Willimantic Waste Paper's contract for five more years with a tipping fee beginning at \$60/ton.

Walton reported that three of the trash and recycling containers on Dog Lane nearest to the restaurants are being replaced with three pairs of Big Belly Solar compactors, which should resolve the trash overflow issues that have been occurring on weekends.

Walton stated that she has been looking at expanding the amount of textiles diverted from the residential waste stream. The mechanism for recycling textiles already exists as part of the reused clothing trade. The key is finding an organization that is amenable to having items other than usable clothing advertised as accepted items. There has been a Salvation Army box at the transfer station for many years, yet they seem reluctant to have textile recycling publicized. The Goodwill out of North Haven, CT has an aggressive textile recycling program and is willing to serve Mansfield. Walton circulated a list of items that they will take (textiles such as stuffed animals, pillows, backpacks, bedding, torn and stained clothing). It was recommended that we send a letter to Salvation Army offering them the opportunity to respond to our request to expand the collection at the transfer station to include textiles for recycling, before we work with Goodwill.

Walton reported that the multi-family contract will be going out to bid soon. Having audited the dumpster recycling pilots, it appears to attract more recyclables (especially cardboard) that are cleanly sorted than the 90 gallon containers. It was suggested that the option of providing recycling dumpsters is included in the multi-family bid document.

The mattress stewardship recycling law that passed this legislative session, is anticipated to go into effect the end of 2014 or the beginning of 2015. Paint is now being accepted at the transfer station for recycling, as the paint stewardship law went into effect this month.

Future agenda items include recommending single-family trash rates. The next meeting will be scheduled for August 29, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator