

## **SHERBORN RECYCLING COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

The 235th meeting of the Recycling Committee was held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

Present: Carol Rubenstein (chair), Ron Buckler, Ardys Flavelle, Jack Mulhall, Wendy Mechaber, Jennifer Stoner, and guest George Pucci, Selectman

Not Present: Andrea Brennan, Susan Peirce, Jane Pusch.

I. Minutes of the October meeting were not available for review.

Thank you's:

- Andrea for her continuing work on the welcome bin program,
- Andrea, Ardys, Amy & Dave Moore, & Roxanne Buckler for their help closing down the Swap Shop for the season;
- Jack M. for confirming our spreadsheet is in good order
- Jack M. for attending the EPP Vendors' Fair in Worcester
- Jane Pusch for her continuing efforts with the Natick Collection Recycling Initiative - things unfortunately are at a standstill because grant funding for technical assistance was not granted and our contact person in management who was so good has left and the general manager is too busy to meet with us.
- Dianne Veitch for her continuing work on the website.

II. Announcements, Old, and New Business

1. Zero Waste and GRRN Conference

Carol went to the conference and proposed that the town think about strategies for getting food waste out of the trash stream. Since only a few families in town are composting at home, it would be useful to offer a town-wide composting facility. Carol suggested local farms (Dowses or Sunshine Farm); organic farms most likely could not accept town-wide compost since the source of the material is unknown. Alternatively, what about CM&D? Additional suggestions: Save That Stuff – does compost pickups in Boston area, or look into strategies followed by Harwich and Nantucket.

Should we consider changing the mission statement to reflect a commitment to Zero Waste?

Additional Zero Waste options: reduce the amount of packaging that goes into the waste stream, and get vendors to take back empty packaging. The goal for next month is to work on the mission statement and make changes to incorporate Zero Waste as a philosophy.

2. Update on recycling at the Community Center

Often, outside caterers do not recycle when cleaning up after events held at the Community Center. The Committee discussed several possible strategies for building recycling into the rental agreement between the Community Center and caterers, making it easier for caterers to recycle their materials directly from the Community Center. One possibility is that the rental agreement could include a \$20. fee to cover pick-up of recycled materials at the Community Center. Caterers would be able to separate recyclables as they cleaned up, and could leave the sorted recyclables when they were done, as the fee would cover the pickup the following day. The committee also suggested that a penalty fee should be imposed if trash and recycled materials are combined. A motion to discuss such changes with the Community Center was proposed by Jack, seconded by Ron, and passed unanimously by the Committee.

3. Jack brought materials from the Vendors' Fair. He collected information about recycling bins, compost bags and brought some samples with him to the meeting. Jack has an assortment of pamphlets, as well.
4. The green recycling bins have been delivered.
5. The clear recycling barrels at Lindquist are not ideal. Since they are transparent, it is easy to identify the contents, but the barrels are flimsy. It is also not clear how much the high school staff is sorting recycled materials from the waste stream. More support from the Recycling Committee might help raise the profile of the recycling program at the high school.
6. There was a brief discussion about stackable recycling bins, and the possibility of making them available to residents. The cost of the bins is still unknown. Would the town sell them? Or identify sources for stackable bins so that residents could obtain their own?
7. Nick at DSHS is looking for sources for vegetable oil for a biofuel car that students are building.
8. Ron reported that Leavitt and Boucher has completed the work on the trash compactor.
9. Carol announced that the Massachusetts WasteWise Forum will take place on Thursday, December 3 in Westboro. Mass DEP will describe how their office reduced waste.
10. Carol will contact Christine DeRosa to discuss averting future problems with recycled paper pickup. There had been a problem with recycled paper pickup from the Transfer Station over Labor Day. Because the paper mill facility will likely be closed over the upcoming winter holidays, it is important to make sure they will pick up the recycled paper anyway.
11. No news regarding Town Counsel's negotiations with Integrated Paper (our recycling hauler for paper and commingled containers), over their proposal that they start charging \$40/ton for commingled containers.
12. Website counter is at 1062. Last month it was 1002.
13. Transfer Station Issues
  - A. Commodity Prices: Scrap Metal – One year ago we got \$250/ton, in November '08 it was down to \$30/ton for one load and gradually it has been coming up. The highest price price per gt (2009) was in Jan '09 when we got \$90/gt. Until August '09 we got \$105/gt. Paper - In September we got \$25/ton, in October, we got \$30/ton. In November ('08) we got \$27.50/ton, in December ('08) we got \$27.50/ton. Currently, the town is not receiving revenue from paper because of the impasse discussed in announcement #11 above.
13. Ardys will record a message on the phone at the Transfer Station.
14. Tonnage report: In Oct. there were 14 trips to Millbury, Sept. had 12 and tonnage is up. Paper: In Oct., 5 trips, Sept. had 6, tonnage is down. Comm: In Oct. there were 4 trips, Sept had 4 trips, and tonnage is up quite a lot. Recycling rate for expanded, which is all we are going to follow per vote at Sept 2009 meeting, is 34.3%, compared to last month at 35.2%.
15. Next meeting is scheduled for December 8 in the Tax Collector's Conference Room. We will meet at 8PM following the close of the polls.
16. The Budget request is due next month. Carol suggested an increase in Budget to cover sending more members to conferences and to cover the price of more composters. We will finalize Budget requests at the next meeting.

Recent Recycling Center statistics:

<b>FY2010</b>	<b>MSW</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Commingled</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Diverted</b>	<b>Recycling Rate</b>
July - 09'	144.86	49.07	13.90	24.88	87.85	37.75
Aug - 09'	146.43	44.90	17.59	12.81	75.30	33.96
Sept - 09'	130.88	48.95	13.97	4.46	67.38	33.99
Oct. - 09'	146.70	37.31	17.26	13.06	67.63	31.55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>568.87</b>	<b>180.23</b>	<b>62.72</b>	<b>55.22</b>	<b>298.17</b>	<b>137.25</b>
<b>FISCAL YEAR 2010</b>						
<b>Average</b>	<b>142.2</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>74.5</b>	<b>34.3</b>
delta vs 09'	5.8	-0.8	-0.6	4.3	2.9	-0.2
delta %	4.2	-1.7	-3.7	45.7	4.1	-0.5
Fiscal 2009 Avg.	<b>136.4</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>34.5</b>
Fiscal 2008 Avg.	<b>145.2</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>32.4</b>
Fiscal 2007 Avg.	<b>152.1</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>34.3</b>
Fiscal 2006 Avg.	<b>159.1</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>29.90</b>
Fiscal 2005 Avg.	<b>160.7</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>30.6</b>
Fiscal 2004 Avg.	<b>161.0</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>30.2</b>
Fiscal 2003 Avg.	<b>155.5</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>64.1</b>	<b>29.2</b>

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy Mechaber – Secretary for November 2009