

Solid Waste Committee

Draft Minutes March 11, 2021

Attendees: Jack Cushman, Andrew Scherer, Alex Thorngren, Claudette Brochu (Selectboard liaison) and two members of the public. Also participating: Lynnwood Andrews, Carolyn Frye

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by Brochu.

1. Agenda review: motion made by Cushman, seconded by ?? to approve agenda. Vote unanimous.
2. Public comments: none
3. Select committee Chair: motion made by Scherer, seconded by Thorngren to nominate Cushman as Chair. Vote unanimous to appoint Cushman as Chair. (at this point, Cushman took over as Chair).
4. Select committee Vice-Chair. Motion made Cushman, seconded by Scherer to nominate Thorngren as Vice Chair. Vote was unanimous to appoint Thorngren as Vice-Chair.
5. Determine length of appointments for members: Two proposals made by Cushman-each member will agree to either a 1,2, or 3 year term **or** each member will agree to a three year term. After some discussion, with no member having strong thoughts on either proposal, the decision was made to have Thorngren serve 1 year term, Cushman to serve 2 year term, and Scherer serve a 3 year term. Agreed to by consensus.
6. Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District (GUVSWD) connection with Solid Waste Committee (SWC): Current GUVSWD rep (Neil Fulton) term is up this month. Proposal made by Cushman that the SWC would reach out to GUVSWD rep after appointment is made by the Selectboard. Agreed to by consensus.
7. Committee vacancies: Cushman asked for suggestions on how to solicit new members. Scherer asked if age was a factor in membership and suggested reaching out to Hanover High student(s) for a youth member. Andrews noted that the Conservation Commission has a student member who has been instrumental in improving communication. Frye provided some

historical context on previous SWC and how with the switch to a Town Manager (TM) form of government, a previous TM did not support continued input from the SWC so the group disbanded. Frye is currently active in Hanover solid waste issues. She also supports youth membership both for communication but also for education. Frye expressed a possible interest in joining the committee but for now will attend as a member of the public. Group supported having Scherer connect with Hanover High. Open positions are also now posted on Town website.

8. Future meeting dates and times: Cushman noted that the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 PM was available and did not conflict with any other town committees. Cushman also noted that the Casella contract was up for review but could not be discussed at this meeting because it had not been warned as an agenda item. He discussed the possibility of a special meeting, possibly next Thursday at 7PM specifically to address and discuss the Casella contract. Cushman will correspond directly with members to finalize the meeting. Motion made by Scherer, seconded by Thorngren to set the meeting date and time as the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM. Motion passed unanimously.
9. Open Meeting Law: Cushman referred to two sources for information; one a Q&A from Vermont League of Cities and Towns; the second a pamphlet from the Secretary of State's office. He briefly reviewed some basics and stated the goal of the group was to be open and transparent. Scherer noted that he and Thorngren had attended a town provided training and wondered if similar training would be available to newly appointed committee members. Brochu stated she was not sure if the town training was recorded and suggested Cushman check with the TM. She would raise this issue of OML training for new committee appointees with the full Selectboard.
10. Committee Charge: Cushman noted that the Charge should be reviewed in detail by the group with any recommended changes or re-affirmation be presented to the Selectboard. Cushman proposed adding this item to a future agenda with a goal to bring back to the Selectboard by summer. Agreed to by consensus.

11. Materials needed by committee and Town of Norwich reports from committees: Cushman asked for clarification on reports from committees. Brochu explained that this was a quarterly written report on the work of all committees to the Selectboard. The Selectboard may be changing this reporting format but Brochu will send Cushman the template for reporting. Re: materials needed-Brochu stated she will send Transfer station fee schedule to Cushman and that we currently have revenue/expense data on transfer station. Brochu will ask the TM if Becky can provide year to date report on revenue/expense specific to Transfer station. Brochu will provide last fiscal year data.
12. Future agenda items:
 - a. Youth member
 - b. Committee charge
 - c. Revenue/expense report for transfer station
13. Public comments: None
14. Adjournment: motion made by Scherer, second by Thorngren to adjourn. Motion unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Brochu