

DRAFT MINUTES, Solid Waste Committee 5/12/22

The committee met by Zoom only. Members present: Cushman, Scherer, Cook, Blake, also a member of the public and SB member Brochu.

The committee works by consensus and no roll call votes were taken, with a consensus to approve the draft agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting.

The committee reviewed pages from town report reflecting Transfer Station costs and expenses, and noted that these are very likely to increase substantially next year due to inflation in the past year.

At the same time, Transfer Station expenditures were offset approximately 75 percent by revenues. While this is a little short of the notional target of 80 percent, fee changes are expected to keep us in the same ballpark. And changes to revenue streams from such places as renegotiating fees for food waste, and managing to clean up our recycling streams, especially for glass, cardboard, deposit containers and “zero-sort” recycling all offer ways to increase revenues and reduce costs.

The committee briefly discussed encouraging members to try out the recycling app that Lebanon uses. People from Norwich who have Lebanon dump stickers can try out the app there. Linda Cook said she has talked to people at our dump who express enthusiasm. It would cost the town something in the low thousands, perhaps as little as \$1000 or so, to offer the app to residents. Committee is continuing to look into this possibility. If there is to be a line item in next year’s budget for this we have all summer to produce recommendations, if any.

We discussed progress toward a flyer that we could hand out at the dump. Cushman drafted a “dummy” prototype which he showed on screen during the meeting. He shared the dummy with the committee — none of the text is official or permanent and most of it is place holding typesetting gobbledegook but it illustrates that we have the tools to build a brochure. We spent some time discussing the impediments posed by the Open Meeting Law to drafting simple documents like this cooperatively. We are working to let committee members write text for a brochure. Cook said she thinks there is a lot of progress and that she and Cushman could work on the brochure together.

This dummy brochure is notional only and has not been discussed or edited in any detail by the committee. Members of the public may look at it in this form with the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/111MnmTuFsdQ8IDUThxkALFDJ-7\\_ze\\_sOwliCd6M\\_L4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/111MnmTuFsdQ8IDUThxkALFDJ-7_ze_sOwliCd6M_L4/edit?usp=sharing)