

## 220613 DRAFT Solid Waste Committee minutes 6/9/2022

The committee held its regular monthly meeting via Zoom at 7 pm on Thursday, June 9, 2022.

All five committee members were in attendance. Lily Terry, Jack Cushman, Bonnie Blake, Linda Cook, and Andy Scherer. No members of the public attended.

Minutes of last month's meeting were approved.

Draft agenda was approved with permission to Scherer to present them out of order, by consensus.

Scherer reported on discussion at the Selectboard meeting the previous night, at which costs and revenues at the transfer station were discussed, but no decision was taken on fee schedules, including windshield stickers for the transfer station and green coupon cards for disposal of landfill trash by the bag. See SB minutes for details.

One problem area appears to be cost burden for construction waste and debris. The committee discussed this, and the consensus, to be reported to the SB by Scherer, is that we feel this waste stream provides an important service to citizens but we feel that this is one area where the SB and town officials should consider raising and regularizing fees so they are transparent and cover costs.

Scherer also noted that the town has been negotiating a change to the service contract with Casella as it pertains to food waste (organic compost materials). These changes, including operating changes with the food waste containers, may save substantial costs in that waste stream.

The committee discussed the Better Bin app which helps citizens sort their waste into streams according to local requirements. The app developer would sell Norwich a subscription for about \$1500 allowing any resident to install the app for free. The app lets users scan an item of waste and determine the right waste stream (recycling, landfill trash, glass etc.) Committee members have tried the app using Lebanon landfill requirements; if Norwich signs up, the app will give our residents instructions for sorting waste on specific items, whether at the transfer station or with driveway pickup services. The committee is enthusiastic about this tool but is not yet able to demonstrate that its adoption would effectively clean up our waste stream enough to pay for the outlay. However the outlay is small and the app does contribute to more accurate sorting of wastes, which is a major objective of cost-efficient solid waste disposal.

We would like to encourage the SB and town officials to include covering this app subscription as they contemplate setting transfer station fees and writing the budget for next year.

The committee reviewed work planning on several related projects, including an informational brochure; better signs at the transfer station; a functional web page; stickers for residents to put on home containers to aid in sorting waste at home. Also pending is the opening of a textile recycling stream at no cost to the town or to users. Work continues on those projects.

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:10

Jack Cushman, chair