

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

June 14, 2007

Present: Craig Blake, Peter Harvell, Carolyn Lee, John Pearson, Thomas Powers, Eric Richard, Thomas Young, Bill Place, DPW Director, and Maureen Valente, Town Manager.

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, the meeting was convened at 7:02 p.m. in the Thompson Room of the Flynn Building, 278 Old Sudbury Road.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Town Manager Maureen Valente. In keeping with the agenda published in the previous minutes (5-24-07), the minutes were reviewed. Move to accept as written by Craig, second by Carolyn, accepted unanimously.

The second item was for each of us to introduce ourselves to the committee. In the course of introductions it was noted that Maureen and Bill are non-voting members of the committee. The group has as members both those who have curbside pickup, those who exclusively go to the landfill, and those who recycle at the landfill, but have trash picked up curbside. Following the introductions, John Pearson was nominated by Carolyn, seconded by Peter and unanimously elected chair of the committee. Carolyn was nominated by Craig, seconded by Peter and unanimously elected clerk of the committee.

Maureen proceeded to explain an aversion by her and the Selectmen to having anything in the tax levy, due to issues with the 2 ½ % cap and the fact that the specific appropriation must be made every year, in competition with all other items. Thus, she strongly recommended that any proposal for a change in the system be an “enterprise fund” from the beginning, perhaps with a first year startup funding from the budget. She also reminded the group to keep to the mission, as provided, and avoid “mission creep.”

As promised from the last meeting, Article 4 of 2005 warrant and the Summary of the Proceedings from town meeting were distributed. Other action items confirmed from the previous meeting included the fact that Eric had sent links to the state statute enabling towns to require recycling and also to the Tyngsboro act based on this.

There followed a discussion of what the members know about the current state of recycling in the town by commercial haulers, what other towns are doing and what things we need to know before we can accomplish our mission. The following actions were agreed upon:

1. Bill Place to provide DEP data from last 5 years on monthly # bags, revenue generated, disposal costs, and how many stickers are sold
2. Craig to speak to the Board of Health about requirements of haulers registering in Sudbury, and who the registered haulers currently are.
3. Peter will develop, with help from Eric, a draft matrix of what questions we need answers to from various towns and from haulers in order to understand the status quo in other towns.
4. Carolyn will go to the websites of the towns profiled in the binder report and learn their current status, pricing, etc.

5. Eric will review the list of recycling percentages for all Massachusetts towns and develop a list of those that have improved the most and/or having the highest percentages of recycling, so that we may consider these for our interviewing.

6. Maureen will get a binder to and notify Nancy Brumback of the next meeting.

7. The next meeting will be on June 28, 2007 @ 7:30 pm in the Thompson Room of the Flynn Building. Subsequent meetings will be scheduled at that time.

At the next meeting we will review this information and attempt to determine if we have enough background information to begin querying other towns in more detail. Maureen cautioned that wasting the time of officials in other towns is not appreciated, and we will develop a methodology, test it on one town, refine and then proceed. We will always have a designated contact person, and not do this independently. Maureen offered that, if we want to speak to the author(s) of the Merritt report done in 2004, and there is either money in the budget or Merritt would do it gratis, she could make the arrangements with Merritt.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Attest:

Amended 6/28/07

Carolyn Lee
Clerk, SWMOC