



Town of Harpswell

P.O. Box 39

Harpswell, ME 04079

Recycling Committee Minutes

November 20, 2109

Attendees: Greg King, George Barker, Philip Conner, Jeff Stann, Jack Stokinger, Bob Eaton

Absent:

Meeting called to order at 4:01

Minutes from May 22, 2019 meeting were approved.

Greg attended the meeting in place of Chuck who is still recovering from back surgery; he is expected to be back January 7, 2020.

New Business Discussion:

We discussed at some length providing free disposal for debris that had washed up on private beaches so that we could respond to the Harbor & Waterfront Committee's comments about this. We talked about known debris that has washed up, about the process for obtaining a permit for disposing of debris removed from public beaches, and concluded that since neither the Recycling Committee nor the facility staff have received comments directly about this being a problem, we would continue the present policy of not providing this service for free.

Greg commented that problems from renters seemed to have gotten better this year and apparently Chuck's efforts last year to educate those involved with renting houses was successful. We need to do the same thing again next spring.

The most frequently experience problem at the Recycling Center and Transfer Station is education. We need to continue our efforts to educate our customers.

We identified that we will have articles in the Anchor about Xmas trees, wrapping, & wreaths (too late for this year), Renters education, Basic Education & Procedures, Shredding, Hazmat, waste oil & antifreeze, lobster gear disposal, what else?

We had a good discussion about Zero Waste and concluded that we should use the information to develop articles, tips, and graphics to educate our customers. Zero Waste seems to require a culture shift to reduce disposable waste and contains many attainable procedures.

It was suggested that we identify, or look into starting if one does not exist, an organization of recycling/transfer stations in Maine to attempt to benefit from other methods of operating.

Jeff Stann asked about how organizations or anyone disposing of trash and recyclables from events can more effectively accomplish the task.

Greg will get guidelines for what can be deposited into the Garbage to Garden “anything that grows” cans.

Bob Eaton suggested that we budget \$\$ for ads in the Anchor for short messages or tips on better disposal methods and procedures.

George Barker contributed an item of interest: Brewer has stopped separating trash and recyclables since it is perceived that the recycled material collected now goes to the landfill.

Old Business:

None

Meeting Adjourned: 5:10pm

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Conner