



Town of Harpswell

P.O. Box 39

Harpswell, ME 04079

**Recycling Committee Minutes
October 19, 2022 at 4:00 pm via Zoom**

Members: ✓Chuck Perow, ✓George Barker, ✓Philip Conner, Jack Stokinger, ✓-Bob Eaton,
✓Marge Webster Warren, ✓Gina Snyder

Meeting called to order: 4:00

Nomination of Chair

Philip Conner was nominated to continue as Chair

Election of the Chair

Vote was 4 for and 2 absent.

Reaffirmation of the mission statement (updated last year):

“The Harpswell Recycling Committee shall provide informed advice and counsel to the facility manager to assist in developing recommendations, strategies, and projects to improve the operation of the Recycling Center and Transfer station. The committee will work with the Select Board, Town Planner, other town committees, and other available resources as coordinated through the Town staff whenever appropriate.”

Vote was 4 for and 2 absent.

Approval of Minutes from May 18, 2022 meeting.

Minutes were approved as amended 4 for and 2 absent. Bob joined meeting after this vote

New Business Discussion:

1. How to track status of extended producer responsibility and learn how we might become involved.

Gina Snyder will check into status of EPR and report back at our next meeting. There has possibly been a 1 year extension of the time table.

2. Access statistics on “A to Z What Goes Where-a homeowners guide”.

The town can only track the number of people who access “Recycling Center” but can not track which pages are accessed.

3. Review adjusted costs of recycling for the year to date

For budgeting, Chuck estimated that our costs would average \$100 per ton for recycling. The contract provides for a range between \$32 and \$167 per ton; some other towns do a poor job in the quality of recycle they send and their costs run as high as \$350/ton. Our Recycling costs have been running in mid \$80's and most recently were \$113 but so far this year have averaged less than the estimated \$100. Reasons for variation include market conditions which depends on quality, demand volume, supply, and a myriad of factors. The cost to process Trash is \$89/ton and \$95 for demo. We are also charged \$220/load for hauling.

Chuck will share with us the recycling adjustments as the year progresses. Billing adjustments come available to us a couple of months after the material is processed.

How does cost work on G2G?

We are charged \$10 per pick up plus \$15 per tote. Last year the net cost for G2G was less than \$2000 for approximately 60 tons. This works out to approximately \$33/ton which is considerably less than the cost of trash @ \$111 including hauling.

4. Review and comment on the recycling ordinance.

We will gradually move forward with this. The building replacement/update has been pushed back to 2024 because CMP has delayed adding 3 phase power to Mountain Road which is important to the project. The push of ordinance review was driving partially by the new building.

The existing ordinance does not cover G2G and may need to be updated.

Commercial haulers do separate recycle from trash but do not deal with G2G.

There are currently 2 established commercial haulers; one or both may be ending before long and those business may not be sold/replaced. One of the existing haulers has approximately 130 customers and the other has about 90. There is a new business getting started now that expects to service 200 to 250 customers.

5. How to Participate in the Comprehensive Plan update

Bob Eaton serves on the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee and will report to us monthly.

Old Business:

Bob Eaton will prepare a letter of appreciation of the Recycling Center staff for our review at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: November 16, 2022

Meeting Adjourned: 5:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip Conner
Chair