



Town of Harpswell

P.O. Box 39
Harpswell, ME 04079

Recycling Committee Minutes

January 17, 2024 at 4:00 pm

Harpswell Town Office

Members: George Barker, Philip Conner, Gina Snyder, Jack Stokinger; Facility Manager: Chuck Perow; (not in attendance Bob Eaton, Selectboard liaison: David Chipman)

Meeting called to order: 4:01 PM

Approval of Minutes from October 18, 2023 meeting with no changes unanimous

A. Manager's Report

Recycling report: Storm damage is keeping the facility busy.

2023 Operations Report currently goes thru November

December numbers coming in middle of the month. Next meeting can review the entire year.

B. Draft Comprehensive Plan

Reviewed bullet points of what the committee prepared vs the draft received – not much of what was sent is in the draft. Question for the committee/consultant – is the plan going to include data in appendices?

- No mention of revenue versus expenditures. The Facility returns approximately 50% of its budget back to the town in the form of Transfer station fees, Compost sales, reclaimed sales, etc Returning 50% of your budget back is important to the town and to operations.
- Summarized the level of activity, it approximately doubles in summer, is this noteworthy in context of comp plan?
- Planned upgrades – no reference (Phase II by fall of 2025) except in terms of the facility under capital planning
- Workforce planning, good people retiring and inevitable need to replace.
- Reference town website, good, solid website material
- Is there a need for trends & statistics?
- No need to have shredding in the comp plan.
- In terms of planning - with the new facility nearly ready to be completed, much of the planning will be complete when Phase II is completed.

- No mention of EPR. There is, however, a potential for the EPR rules to have significant impact. Consider - EPR potential for offset costs, keep brief and replace the 'save' money by recycling with reference to this. Use the prospect of EPR in the context of recycling markets rather than referencing saving money.

De-emphasize 'savings' with opportunity for offset costs.

Note:

One of top goals in the plan is educating public on recycling – but it should include waste reduction and composting.

The operation is well run, people are participating, let's get people reducing.

Appendix of data, charts, summary, not in body but points of reference.

Committee Annual Report

Take what Phil's been working on, Gina will assist, then send to Chuck.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:54PM

Next meeting of this committee is February 21.