



Town of Harpswell

P.O. Box 39

Harpswell, ME 04079

Recycling Committee Minutes

October 18, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Harpswell Town Office

Members: George Barker, Philip Conner, Bob Eaton, Gina Snyder, Jack Stokinger; Facility Manager: Chuck Perow; Selectboard liaison: David Chipman

Meeting called to order: 4 PM

Approval of Minutes from May 19, 2023 meeting with no changes

Nomination of Chair – Phil Conner nominated; Election of Chair, unanimous Phil Conner; Gina will write draft notes for meetings.

Updated Mission Statement from last year unanimously reaffirmed

“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.”

New Business Discussion:

A. Manager's Report

-The shredding event Sept 10th shredded a record number of bins- Donette from the recycling facility, Jack Stokinger and the truck driver handled it all. This was the second year for this new operation, paid out of recycling budget, cost \$600 per event. Next year will be that same Saturday. It's been very popular.

-Operations went smoothly over the summer, down in tonnage, up in compost. (Garbage to Gardens, comes on Thursdays – they charge per bin, so if not full, still charge, therefore the process is to fill the first set of bins before putting more out.)

-Short Term rentals as a topic is being addressed by a town committee being set up.

-Upgrade scheduled for 2025. 3-Phase electric is now available. Next steps are to finalize the funding at next town meeting, finalize the engineering, and go to bid after town meeting in 2024. The new equipment will need some form of VFD for each hopper, the voltage will

increase from 440 to 660 with the 3-phase that CMP installed on Mountain Road over the past year. The staff are looking forward to the update as the roof has more leaks every year.

B. Discussion of updated Comprehensive Plan for Solid Waste Disposal. In process
A draft needs to be submitted to the consultant for the Solid Waste Section.

While the state mandates certain information, one can see in various available comprehensive plans that it isn't necessary to only address those topics. Updating the comprehensive plan is important: if a town wants to apply for state funds and some other grants, they first ask where your comprehensive plan is. State listed criteria include chapter headings and a checklist, any community can do more however.

Solid waste is under Community services or public services, and looks at: What exists now, what are the trends, what's your analysis, what are your plans. These tend to go in an appendix, with a written plan that outlines other aspirations.

We need an updated inventory which will probably be in an annex – it's an opportunity to put in historic information. The consultant didn't do this section so the committee is.

A short discussion of historic information included such topics as the fishing gear take-back program, known as "gear grab"; the cost of recycling which has increased to the point where it's more expensive than trash disposal; the recent upgrades.

Committee to consider a VISION : In ten years, what might the facility need, or Harpswell want, that isn't here now. (The second phase capital improvements will occur in the next ten years as a start).

Start with draft circulated before the meeting and cover goals in the next meeting.

Old Business:

EPR: It's difficult to conceive how the draft rules will be implemented. The committee has already written a letter and hosted a visit from Maine DEP staff writing the EPR rules; and despite doing what we could to get information and data from our town into the discussion, the drafted rules do not take into account seasonal population. The question is -Why are they not using tonnage, instead of population-based, for reimbursement on trash. Towns are already required to report tonnage to the state, they should use this data that the town is already reporting.

A simple letter should be sent to comment on this concern in the EPR draft rules prior to the October 31st deadline. Because of the short time-frame, Chuck will draft a simple streamlined letter addressing the above information with George to be sent to Kristie.

Next meeting of this committee is November 15th.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:10 PM.