

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

August 9, 2022

Meeting held remotely via ZOOM and

The District Office at 224 Church Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:39 p.m. by Paulette Routhier, Treasurer

Present: Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Bruce Rumball-Petre (Brighton); Lila Stevens (Brownington), Bob Sandberg (Corinth – no audio – not counted towards quorum), Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Brian Carroll (Glover); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Joe Noble (Holland & Morgan); Dustin Sanville (Irasburg in person); Dave Sanders (Jay); Steve Gray (Lyndon); John Narowski (Newbury); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gene Perkins (Ryegate – no audio – not counted towards quorum); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock in person); Emily Cayer (Stannard); Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton); Sue Altland (Topsham); Gaston Bathalon (Troy); Richard Stodola (Waterford); Richard Degre (Westfield), and Miriam Simonds (Westmore)

Absent: Albany, Barnet, Charleston, Cabot, Concord, Derby, East Haven, Granby, Groton, Guildhall, Kirby, Lunenburg, Marshfield, Newark, Norton, Peacham, UTGs, and Victory

Staff present- Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

Visitors – Amy Ash -Nixon, Caledonian-Record

Updates to the Agenda – None.

Approval of Minutes- Moved to approve minutes of June 14, 2022, 2nd, approved.

Charter Amendment Process – Paul explained that this evening’s vote was only to approve the language of the proposed Charter amendment – this is not the vote to approve the Charter change itself. Claude Phipps (Newbury) recognized there were some minor corrections needed before moving this proposal forward to the Town and Supervisors to consider. None of the revisions affect the overall intent of the proposed charter amendment, which is to change the way the District budget is approved – replacing the Australian Ballot process with Waste District Board approval. Motion, 2nd. Question: What are the changes identified by Claude Phipps (Newbury)? (1) Clarifying language regarding the timing of the public hearing and incorporation of comments into the budget process; (2) numbering of sections was changed to reflect 2 sections where changes are recommended – not 4; and (3) change the word “rescind” to “amend” in relationship to the annual meeting. Question: If there is an Australian Ballot vote needed to conduct District business, will the article for that vote be included in the Towns’ annual reports? The warning for any potential District business would be provided to all towns so that it can be published in the town reports – as is the current case with the District budget. Motion Approved.

Administrative Rules Review – Jill Muhr from VLCT has our *Administrative Rules* and will be reviewing them and recommending changes. We expect to have her review in time for the September meeting. We should be able to finish the process and adopt any changes before the end of the calendar year. Paul will circulate the *Administrative Rules* to those interested Supervisors.

Updates –

Financial – The District financial situation is pretty good. Recycling markets remain strong; however, cardboard pricing is expected to drop \$20/ton – from \$140/ton to \$120/ton, which Paul explained was still a good price. Newspaper prices are expected to remain unchanged. Plastic value has dropped dramatically.

Questions on Budget Comparison: Item #11. Is that the SWIP grant? Answer: Yes. Question: What is Item #15 Miscellaneous? Answer: Worker’s Comp. refund. Question: What is line item #34 Building Maintenance? Answer: Cost associated with installing the foam densifier and some other electrical issues involving the lights (replacing ballasts, fixture, and bulbs).

Foam Recycling – The machine was installed and tested on Friday, August 5th, 2022. It works fine and produces an approximate 50 lb ingot from 4-5 cubic yards of foam. The resulting ingot is about 1.5 cubic feet. WCAX ran a story on the new machine which was posted to their website. The Caledonian-Record also ran a story on the new machine. Paul reiterated to the Board that no towns should be stockpiling this material until they are given the go-ahead by the District. Question: What markets exist for the end product? Answer: Our closest outlet for the material is located in Sherbrooke, PQ, Canada. The company makes foam board insulation and has offered to pick up our material from our facility. Question: Can towns direct residents to the Lyndonville facility for foam recycling? Answer: Yes, but only if it’s from their personal use. We want to avoid large quantities coming in right away until we get the entire process under control. Question: How does the District plan to store and transport loose foam? Answer: The District is currently using super-sacks, which hold about one cubic yard. They should be light enough to handle easily, but may not accommodate enough material for some locations. Question: Is blue board insulation acceptable? No, nor is the pink board insulation or the yellow with the foil backing.

Ives Daigle Tree Planting Memorial – Paul’s plan is to purchase a balsam fir from Nature by Design in Orleans and bring it to Westfield on the afternoon of September 7th, 2022. There will be a ceremony dedicating the tree in Ives’ memory. All Supervisors will be notified of the exact date and time.

State Inspection – Representatives from VT ANR inspected our facility recently. They requested some documentation, which we’ve provided. We have a meeting scheduled with them on September 1, 2022 to review the results of the inspection.

NEKCC - There have been recent reports of NEKCC using an unpermitted site in Lyndonville to process food scraps. The District was only made aware of this through recent articles in the paper. Paul informed the Board that NEKCC is a registered hauler and they were delivering materials to Eric Paris’ farm, which is permitted. NEKCC has not submitted any hauler reports for 2022. Paul has reached out to them to do so.

Other Business – Question: Is the collection of electronics still on hold? Answer: Paul explained that the District is nearly caught up with e-wastes, but it could take 3-8 days to resume collection.

Compost Contamination – The District hasn’t had any additional feedback regarding contamination, so that could be viewed as good news. PLU stickers are still an issue, so residents should continue to be reminded of this – please remove all PLU stickers.

New Recycling Center in Danville – Walter McNeil briefed the Board on the new facility in Danville that has been open for 3 weeks. Residents and the attendant have reacted positively to the new facility. Parking has been greatly improved. The District is able to get in and out of the new facility more easily than the old one.

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, approved @ 7:33pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Tomasi

There is a video/audio recording of the August 9, 2022 meeting. It is available upon request.