

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

06/26/2023

APPROVED Minutes

Approved as amended on July 10, 2023

Call to Order

Members present: Ben Bartlett, John Morin, Steve Welch, Tim Dabrieo, and Matthew Shirland (arrived at 7:08 PM) Others: Town Administrator Ellen White, Wayne Smith from Nottingham Recycling Center.

Members of the public: Doug Bates, Steve Soreff.

Mr. Bartlett opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recycling Center Work Session

Mr. Bartlett said that the sole purpose of this Board meeting is to review and go over the policies and the procedures of the Nottingham Recycling Center.

The Board began the workshop by discussing the following:

- Aluminum can baler versus plastic baler and whichever one is more cost effective for the Town;
- A possibility of introducing an annual fee (similar to charging fees for Recreation Programs) for the use of the Recycling Center to keep the costs down (with an option to waive the fees for those who are on a fixed income);
- Current fee schedule for disposing of different materials and whether they indeed cover the cost the Town has to pay to get rid of them;

Wayne Smith from the Nottingham Recycling Center joined the meeting at 7:17 PM. He spoke and answered Board's questions about the following aspects of the Recycling Center operations:

- Which fees are charged by the Center and which types of waste actually bring some revenue to the Town;
- Approximate volume of certain types of waste that go through the Center on a regular basis;
- Contracting companies, the Center is working with and how much they charge;
- The rationale for choosing the baler for plastics over cans as well as specs for the baler used currently versus the new one as well as logistics associated with using the baler for plastics versus the one for cans;
- The need to enforce more strictly separation of trash from recycling;
- Inability to fix and subsequent disposal of the can crusher;
- The use of various equipment at the Center;
- The state of various structures at the site and other issues with surfaces at the Center;
- Operating days/hours at the Center;

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- Staffing needs to safely operate the Center;
- Communications/chain of command in events of emergency or inclement weather, etc. which would require closure of the Center;
- Dust control measures implemented/or not at the Center;
- Whether there are any issues with rodents at the Center;
- Ongoing erosion issues on site;
- Issues with children being unsupervised when the Center is open which is a safety concern;
- Availability of first aid equipment on site;
- Oil recycling trends remaining steady over the last few years and how waste oil is being stored on site and used;
- Diesel fuel storage on site and its use;
- Having checked with the State on whether the Center is operating up to standards and getting confirmation of that from Tara Albert, who is the Training and Certification Coordinator at the NH DES Solid Waste Management Bureau;
- Trying to keep the Styrofoam out of the compactor and with the bulky waste so that it does not end up at the landfill;
- Refrigerators and freon recycling process;

Then members reviewed the Recycling/Trash Disposal Policy that has been adopted in 2014 and noted the following items on there that are no longer in place:

- Charging of sticker fees;
- Use of transparent bag for non-recyclable trash;
- Use of the Swap Shed and reference to reusable goods associated with that shed.

Ms. White noted that there is an Operating Plan for the Recycling Center that has been filed with NH Department of Environmental Services which provides guidance about the general operation of the facility. She noted that there is conflicting guidance between this plan and the Town's actual policy.

There was a short discussion about the need to charge commercial customers of the Center more than residential.

There was another discussion about the 2022 Warrant Article that allowed residents to "dumpster dive" for items that could be reused; the intent of the article, and whether there was a way to enforce the "reuse" being only personal and not for resale.

It was suggested to have a company review the operations of the Recycling Center and come up with a list of deficiencies and proposals to address them.

Then members returned to reviewing the Operating Plan and the following was noted:

- Center operating hours are not compliant according to the Plan;
- Dust control measures are required but may not be implemented to the extent necessary;

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- Plan requiring no amount of liquids stored on site, whereas there is recycled oil and diesel fuel currently stored there;
- Plan prohibiting the Center to receive any liquid waste, while waste oil is being received and stored on site;

Then members reviewed the Recycling/Trash Disposal Policy and spoke about the following:

- The policy allowing Center staff inspect any bags or containers deemed necessary and banning people for disposing of trash and recyclables inappropriately.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of penalizing people for using the Recycling Center inappropriately and how it could be done and what would be the costs associated with the enforcement. Language referring to re-educating was suggested as well as improved signage on site;

- Suggested changes to the required use of transparent bags by asking for “preferable opaque” ones and removing Styrofoam reference from the list of non-recyclable waste;
- Suggested language for propane tanks having to be empty if they are being disposed;

There was a lengthy discussion about the suggested idea of having a consultant review the operations of the Center and provide recommendations and whether it would be a costly endeavor. One suggestion was made to have a walk through with either NRRA or CMA to get their initial thoughts and Ms. White said she can look into it. Several Board members expressed interest in going to the walk through.

Then there was a discussion about the fee schedule and whether the fees for disposing various items at the Center cover the costs associated with the Town further disposal of them.

The next discussion was about the baler and Mr. Wayne’s suggestion to get a bigger one for plastic to match the bale size the ones that are in use already and to improve the logistics of hauling the bales off site and storing them on site before they are hauled away. After a lengthy back and forth on the specifications of the larger baler and how it will work, Ms. White was asked to provide more information on the cost and specs of the larger baler for further discussion.

The last discussion was about the next Board meeting. Meeting date was set for July 6th at 6:30 PM.

Non-Public Session

Mr. Dabrieo moved to enter non-public session at 9:17 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Motion was seconded by Mr. Shirland. Motion carried by a 5:0 roll call vote. Mr. Morin – aye, Mr. Dabrieo – aye, Mr. Shirland – aye, Mr. Bartlett – aye, Mr. Welch – aye.

Non-public session was entered at 9:17 PM

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Resumption of Public Session

The public session was entered at 10:02 PM.

Mr. Dabrieo moved to exit the public session and seal the non-public minutes at 10:02 PM, Mr. Shirland duly seconded. Motion carried by a 5:0 roll call vote. Mr. Morin – aye, Mr. Dabrieo – aye, Mr. Shirland – aye, Mr. Bartlett – aye, Mr. Welch – aye.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Mr. Dabrieo to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Shirland. Motion carried by a 5:0 roll call vote. Mr. Morin – aye, Mr. Dabrieo – aye, Mr. Shirland – aye, Mr. Bartlett – aye, Mr. Welch – aye.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 PM.

Submitted by Alvina Snegach