

## Meeting Minutes

### Cleaner Greener Hingham / Long Range Waste Disposal and Recycling Committee

Tuesday March 9th, 2021, 7:00 pm via Zoom

In attendance: Andy Ayer/Katie Puzo/Janice McPhillips//Christine Nielsen/Alyson Anderson/David White/Maria Zade/Stephen Jiranek/Katie Gallacher/Randy Sylvester/Matt Cahill

Absent: Pete Stathopoulos

Guests: Ed Bartholomew

#### 1. Transfer Station (TS) Updates

Randy introduced Matt Cahill ([cahillm@hingham-ma.gov](mailto:cahillm@hingham-ma.gov)) as the new Assistant Superintendent at Department Public Works (DPW) in Hingham.

Swap Shop reopening is determined by Selectmen and State - no date determined at this time.

Alyson and Stucky confirmed that the 'Library of Tools' at Hingham Public Library has enough items to claim 1 Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) point. The selling of compost bins by DPW will also generate 1 RDP point (information below). The money from RDP points is currently being saved to buy an additional bailer for the TS.

The committee had some clarifications on whether some items that may be recycled should be put into the recycling or trash at the TS:

- Aerosol cans - trash
- waxed paper containers - trash
- broken drinking glasses/pyrex/other household glass not from bottles - trash
- jars - recycled separately: glass in glass receptacle, metal lid with cans (regular cans, not redeemable)
- store receipts - trash

#### 1. *Randy's proposal in regards to TS fees*

Recycling costs are increasing - currently paying around \$130k per year for recycling (budget is \$100k). Randy did a comparison with other South Shore towns TS fees and Hingham's are lower, therefore proposing the following system to be implemented 1st May 2021 (currently open for public comment with Selectmen voting in 2 weeks):

- Disposal fees for large appliances and electronics would increase to \$15 per item (currently no charge). Those disposing of furniture would be

required to pay by credit card to go over the scale for the pieces to be weighed, with a minimum \$15 charge. Securing a bulky waste permit ahead of time would no longer be required as disposal could be done on any day the TS is open.

- There will also be a change in the commercial sticker fee for out-of-town users to \$150 per year and an increase in the construction and demolition/bulky waste fee for commercial users (from \$15 min to \$45 min & \$320/tonne thereafter).
- There would be no change to residential landfill sticker fees, which will remain free for the first permit per household, and \$25 for each additional one.

This would increase revenue by \$151,875, which would not cover the increase in fees charged by Covanta SEMASS for trash disposal, but should cover recycling costs. Once confirmed CGH should plan to send a flyer in the Hingham Light bill (ideally April or otherwise May 2021) to inform the town residents about these changes. Randy also suggested handing out flyers at the entry to the TS **Action: Katie P** to create a google docs spreadsheet for sign up to hand out flyers.

## 2. *Compost Bin Program*

Randy provided an update on the composting situation at the TS - currently no space to collect food waste for hauling away, but Matt has been working on DPW providing compost bins for residents to compost at home. There were 2 options of bin choices via the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) grant system and it was decided that the New Age Composter produced by New England Plastic Corporation in New Bedford MA would be sold to the residents of Hingham by the DPW. This is a medium size bin made from recycled plastic that will be made available for a price of \$25. The DPW has made an initial purchase of 21 units, which will arrive 3/10/21, and will order more depending on interest. Ideally roll out for Earth Day (22 April 2021). Matt has a poster to advertise the initiative and the bins come with full instructions for assembly and use. There is also a brochure that could be given out with the bins. Residents would order bins directly from the DPW - online or in person - and they would be stored at the DPW until a specified pick up date. At that time Reps from CGH could be available to answer any questions that residents may have on composting.

DPW is moving to an online system to purchase TS stickers and once this is up and running this same system will be used to order/pay for compost bins. Aiming for May 1st rollout of the new system - Randy requested minimal publicity on this project until this online system is available. At that point CGH will advertise the sign up for compost bins using the following:

- announcement via usual local channels (FB, Anchor, Journal) **Action: Janice** to write max 250 word article **Action: Randy** to review prior to publication
- announcement via podcast The Hingham 'Cast **Action: Andy** to reach out to Ally Donnelly
- promotion at Hingham Farmers Market - Janice has spoken to Linda Luke (Hingham Farmers Market Board) who showed interest at having CGH reps at the market in the future to promote/answer questions
- video on Harbor Media - 3 min instructional video on how to use the bins plus 90 sec 'bumper' to promote it **Action: Maria & Alyson** to work with Harbor Media on this.
- put up posters around town **Action: Katie P** to create list of best local places for this.

1.

2. Annual Report

Reports due to town on 15th March 2021. **Action: Andy** to write the report **Action: Alyson** to review.

3. Subcommittee Updates

a. *Bylaw/Reg Review (David, Katie P, Maria)*

No update

b. *Community Outreach (Andy, Janice)*

CGH webpage needs reviewing - outdated information and links **Action: Katie G** to review. 'What must I recycle' document needs reviewing by DPW **Action: Janice** to send to Matt for review/suggested updates. **Action: Matt** to review and provide feedback to the committee.

Outstanding item - Map of the TS not on the CGH website. **Action: David** to update the TS map and send to Janice.

c. *Education (Andy, Chris)*

No update due to ongoing Covid pandemic

d. *Events (Chris, Katie P)*

Clean Up Day - South School is planning one so CGH could coordinate the date with them so that the school could be a pick up site. Usually either Sunday before/after Earth Day 18 or 25 April 2021). Randy confirmed that the DPW

could provide bags and pick up trash collected. Action: Katie P & Chris to discuss and report back to committee

'Kiss the Ground' community screening - Action: Andy to contact library

e. Refuse/Reuse (Alyson, Stucky)

No update

4. Items not reasonably anticipated 48hrs in advance

None.

5. Approval of Minutes from February 2021 meeting

Minutes approved.

Next meeting April 6th 2021 at 7pm

Respectfully submitted, Katie Gallacher