

Recycling Committee Meeting October 25, 2008 10:30- 12:30

Jean Landis-Naumann
Brian Whidden
Sharon Collins-Hazley
Gene Wyatt
Mike Rohr
John Coyle
Katie Condon

Gordon Martin
Henry Vieira
Doug Buitjehuis

Gordon:

Wellesley Transfer Station

- 85% residents come to TS (26,000 residents in town)
- Open 6 days, 14 employees + 3 summer help
- Trash, recycling, 35-40 acres are used
- Also, pick up trash along main commercial zone
- 3500 cars go through on Saturday, 10,000 vehicles per week- someone stands at gate to watch people going through- only a few are difficult each week
- Pick up recyclables at all municipal buildings including schools
- Service compactors at a supermarket recycling services - 4x/week-make a lot of money-trying to expand it
- \$2.1 million budget per year
- 10 years ago \$3.7 million invested in recycling and reducing cost of handling trash and increase recycling-needed money to get started
- Last year gave \$877,000 to town fund-FY08 ended June 30- \$460,000 from recycling sales and \$250,000 from commercial tipping fees (\$130/ton charge)
- No fees to residents
- Residents sort 2 paper, 2 cardboard, 4 plastic grades to maximize revenue, it's more work, but they have made it convenient
- Diversion rate -60%= % of total that is recycled
- 1000 tons of residential C&D material last year
- Give tours of TS to school groups to educate about recycling
- *Give map and thorough education to residents when they get sticker
- 100 volunteers work at TS at Swap Shop-have 3 pages of guidelines
- \$80/ton for cardboard-was \$150/ton-90% goes to China
- \$135/ton for newspaper-baled (\$30 to bale)

- Have partnered with local communities- Dover, Millis, Braintree, Natick, and maybe Framingham
- Signs: \$50,000 in signs-diamond shape with info on what to recycle, sample items, pictures, what should be recycled elsewhere- \$250/sign- will last forever

Suggestions:

- When reconfiguring TS, have recycling first
- Ask new rep (Jonathan) at DEP about grants to get new recycling center set up
- It takes 2 years to train residents to any change-so make minimal changes
- Rule-handle full week's volume + 20%-overflow should never go to trash
- Use message board at TS to give more info about recycling- "Recyclable of the Month", etc "Are you planning to recycle today?"
- Have to be able to handle peak hours so no one is waiting
- Have elderly work at TS to watch recycling and get reduced TS sticker
- Have a fund for buying new containers in each budget -\$4500 for new open-top containers
- Can get Lease to own relationship with vendors on recyclable containers
- Never send the recycling to the trash-wastes money and deters future recycling by discouraging
- Get newspaper to put recycling updates in weekly or monthly
- Make signs clear about what can be recycled-don't go with numbers-go with bottle vs. non-bottle

Other Business:

Nov 20 9:00 am Next SSRC meeting at Kingston Town Hall

Next Committee Meeting: Oct 25 10:30am