

**Wolcott Litter & Solid Waste Ordinance Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**May 18, 2021**

Zoom meeting: 5:30 p.m.

All Minutes are draft until approved by the Committee  
Please see future Minutes for approval of these Minutes

Present: Michelle Cortes-Harkins, Rick Harkins, John Wheeler, Kurt Klein  
Absent: Fay Lauber  
Scribe: Deb Klein

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Chair, Michelle Cortes-Harkins called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** None.

**Approve Minutes of April 27, 2021:** Motion by John to approve the Minutes of April 27, 2021. Seconded by Kurt. No discussion. Voting: All in favor.

**Comments from the Community:** None.

**New Business**

**Green Up Day Results:** The Committee felt Green Up Day participation this year was great. It was noted that next year the Town should get more bags to avoid running out as happened this year. The Selectboard can follow up with Kee Gillen who head up the Green Up Day event. It was discussed that even large items such as microwave ovens and mattresses can be pulled from the woods to the side of the road for pickup by the road crew.

Generally, when trash or household garbage is dumped in Town, it is reported to the Sheriff's Office. Often, identifying information can be located in the trash so that a citation can be issued. Rick and Michelle have noted several bags of trash dumped by Wolcott Pond. Kurt reported that a citizen had paid to have 85 tires hauled away. The tires were dumped at the North Wolcott ball field. The matter was referred to the Sheriff's Office, and the identity of the hauler was provided. A fine could run \$500. The tires were picked up from the ball field by the road crew and taken to the Transfer Station. It will cost the Town \$2 each for disposal. John reported that a car had been dumped up by Zack's Woods Pond. The Sheriff's Office was contacted and the vehicle was removed. Anyone can report illegal dumping to the Sheriff's Office; it need not go through the Committee. It was suggested that a request go to the State to post No

Dumping signs in a couple of the turnouts, which seem to be popular dumping grounds.

The yard signs: Love Where You Live - Don't Trash Wolcott were well received. The signs in the public right of way were moved to different locations after two weeks. In accordance with the law, the signs remaining in public areas will be picked up on May 23, and will be placed in storage. Signs placed on private property by the owners can remain.

**Solid Waste Complaints:**

-Residence on VT Rt 15 with household trash. The resident was contacted by the Enforcement Officer, and the trash was disposed of properly. The matter is resolved.

-Rental property on Town Hill Rd with excessive metal junk in yard and in right of way. The Enforcement Officer contacted the property owner, who lives out of town, to let him know of the situation. The owner said he would address the problem. The situation appears to be improving. About half of the junk has been removed so far.

-Residence on Morey Hill with excessive household trash in yard along with junk. The resident was sent a certified letter addressing the issue. The letter has not been signed for. The household trash is attracting rodents. The Enforcement Officer will take next steps this week.

-Residence on Town Hill Rd with excessive household trash. The resident was contacted in person to dispose of the trash properly. Then the resident started burning the trash, which is a violation of State law. The Enforcement Officer then served the resident with a warning letter and \$500 fine if they do not comply. Subsequently, most of the trash was removed. The situation will be monitored.

It was noted that the money from any fines that may be imposed goes to the court system, and does not come to the Town.

-North Wolcott Rd illegal junkyard. It was noted that over the past three years or so the amount of junk on the property has doubled in size. It is not licensed as a junk yard, nor is it fenced off from the road. The matter was turned over to the State about two years ago. It was noted that the State has only one person assigned to cover junk issues throughout the entire State. Since the pandemic, there has been no action taken by the State. The Enforcement Officer will send another notice of violation to the property owner.

-Residence on Flatiron Rd with excessive number of cars. This matter had been referred to the State a couple of years ago. Currently, most of the vehicles are registered. The Committee may wish to rekindle this.

-Residence on East Elmore Rd with excessive household trash on flatbed truck. The resident was sent a certified letter of violation. As temperatures rise, the concern is with the trash attracting rodents. The situation is ongoing.

**River Clean up:** Michelle reviewed a letter sent by Andy Duff regarding trash along the Lamoille River in Wolcott. Andy indicates that he and some friends can collect the trash. He estimates it would be about three or four pickup loads. Andy is seeking financial assistance for proper disposal. It may include trash along the river leading into Morrisville as well. The Wolcott Selectboard can be approached to see if the collected trash can be taken to the Transfer Station. As long as the trash would fit in the bins, there would be no extra cost to the Town for disposal. Motion by John to support the proposed river cleanup utilizing the Transfer Station. Seconded by Rick. Voting: All in favor. The Committee is unaware of any prior attempts to clean junk from the river banks.

Michelle stated the Committee should think about prevention and not just apply bandaids. It was suggested that there could be an Adopt A Road campaign. The yard signs can be put out again in October with a kick-off for another Green Up type day of activity in Wolcott before it snows. John stated that while walking along the rail trail he sees a lot of trash over the banks. Michelle, too, sees trash on the trails while biking. John pointed out that once the Wolcott section of the rail trail is connected, the Committee will want to think about how to keep it cleaned up. It might be that certain sections of the trail could be “adopted” for cleanup.

Michelle will contact the Town Administrator to get on the Selectboard Agenda for the June 2 meeting. As Committee Chair, Michelle will request that any funds remaining in the Committee’s account in this year’s budget be reallocated to the next fiscal year’s budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein.

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