

Wolcott Litter & Solid Waste Ordinance Committee Meeting

June 22, 2021

Zoom: 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, Kurt Klein, John Wheeler
Absent: Faye Lauber, Barara Conn
Scribe: Deb Klein

Michelle called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: Michelle added Free Piles to New Business.

Approve Minutes of May 18, 2021: Motion by John to approve the Minutes of May 18.
Seconded by Rick. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

Comments from the Community/Correspondence: None.

New Business

TerraCycle, Inc. program/Public Trash Receptacles: Michelle explained that TerraCycle, Inc. is a non-profit organization that collects difficult to recycle waste. A box can be purchased for a fee, filled, then shipped back free. Then another box is sent to the customer. Non-rechargeable, alkaline batteries, for example, can be recycled with the company for \$186. It was noted how difficult it is to recycle batteries in Vermont. Collecting batteries at the Transfer Station could provide a good service to residents. There could be a small fee charged to go towards the cost of recycling. Michelle may approach the Selectboard to see if the cost for the TerraCycle box can come out of the Transfer Station budget. Otherwise, the Committee may wish to start the program using their own funds.

Michelle stated that studies show public trash receptacles drastically reduce litter. Discussion ensued, and ideas were shared, on how trash receptacles could be set up in Wolcott. All agreed that educating the public is important. The "Don't Trash Wolcott" signs are effective for some. Michelle will do more research on trash receptacles.

Community Survey: It was suggested the Committee conduct a survey of Wolcott residents to assess what the community wants and needs with regard to litter and trash. Michelle and Rick will draft a six-question survey. The survey could be posted on Front Porch Forum, and paper copies available at Town Office for those without internet access. Also discussed was the possibility of holding an additional green up day in the fall. John suggested there be a free day at the Transfer Station for bulk items, similar to what is done in Craftsbury. Michelle brought up the Organizational Waste Reduction & Reuse Program (OWRRP) grant offered through Central

Vermont Solid Waste District in Montpelier. The grant would provide seed money for waste reduction and reuse education. The Committee will investigate whether such a grant opportunity exists from Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD).

Solid Waste Complaints

-VT Rt 15 home: The resident will be sent a note to see how things are going.

-Town Hill Rd - Excessive junk on property in view of the roadway: The landlord was contacted. About half of the junk has been removed so far. At least the junk in the right-of-way was removed.

-Morey Hill Rd - Excessive garbage on property, rats sighted, possible illegal sewer disposal into road ditch: This property remains an issue. Contact has been difficult. Other agencies, including social service agencies, may need to be involved. The sewage issue was investigated.

-Town Hill Rd - Excessive garbage stored in open boat - rats sighted: About 80% of the trash has been cleaned up.

Open issues recorded prior to ordinance petition and COVID:

-North Wolcott Rd - Illegal junkyard - referred to State pre-COVID: The problem persists. As a result, property values for neighbors decreases. The sole individual assigned to these cases for the Department of Environmental Conservation - Waste Management & Prevention Division, was recently contacted, but has not yet replied.

-Flat Iron Rd - Excessive junk cars visible from road - referred to State pre-COVID: The Committee should determine whether the State is going to issue a fine. If not, then the Committee should pursue the matter under the Wolcott Ordinance.

Free Piles: The Committee discussed free piles and the restriction imposed through a new component of the Ordinance. In the past there had been complaints about piles of trash left by the roadside. After free items are left for a certain amount of time, out in the weather, the items are useless to anyone and simply become trash. Piles of trash attract animals and vermin. The idea of having a 72-hour limit on a free pile is to avoid a roadside trash problem.

It was noted that items can be taken to the transfer station. Although a disposal fee must be paid, if the items may be used by someone else, they can be left beside the bin, free for someone to take.

River Clean up (Andy): Andy is currently out of the country, but will contact the Committee upon his return. The Committee will find out then whether Andy was successful in obtaining a grant from LRSWMD to cover cleanup costs. If no grant is available, the Committee will consider assisting with the cleanup of items recovered from the Lamoille River.

Motion to adjourn by Rick. Seconded by Kurt. Voting: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

