

**Wolcott Litter & Solid Waste Ordinance Committee Meeting
Minutes
July 27, 2021**

Wolcott Town Office/Zoom: 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Chair, Michelle Cortes-Harkins, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: None.

Approve Minutes of June 22, 2021: Motion by John to approve the Minutes of June 22. Seconded by Kurt. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

Comments from the Community: None.

Committee Updates from previous meeting: None.

New Business

Update on Teracycle Program/Public Trash Receptacles: Kurt reported that at the last Selectboard meeting it was noted that the Transfer Station is currently operating in the red. Although revenues have been pretty consistent for the past few years, expenses now exceed revenue. Given the financial situation of the Transfer Station, the Town is unable to take on the cost of the battery recycling program, or purchasing public trash receptacles. Discussion ensued regarding the rates charged at the Transfer Station. Current rates are pretty consistent with other transfer stations. Since Wolcott's Transfer Station operates independently, rates can be raised, and that may be the only recourse. The Town needs to be careful that prices do not rise to the point that people engage in illegal dumping. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of the Town managing its own compost like other towns are considering.

The Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD) is now accepting batteries as part of their recycling effort. The head of LRSWMD has been invited to attend the August 4 Selectboard meeting.

Kurt contacted Vermont Fish and Wildlife about the Town installing a trash receptacle in the Wolcott Pond area. Fish and Wildlife does not want the Town to place a trash receptacle on State property, but if requested, they may do so and will assume responsibility for it. Kurt recommended the Committee make such a request of the agency.

Community Survey: Michelle and Rick created a survey using Google forms. The survey would be used to gather information on attitudes of those in town towards litter and trash. The Committee can then determine what action to take. Following input from Committee members, the survey can be posted on Front Porch Forum and the Town's website. A question will be added about the Ordinance itself. Paper copies can be made available at Town Office. Notices can be posted at various locations in Town to alert people to the existence of the survey. It is anticipated the survey will remain active for one month. Reminders can be posted weekly on Front Porch Forum. Michelle hopes for at least 100 responses.

Solid Waste Complaints: Kurt reported that no new complaints have been received which is a bit troublesome. In the past, complaints had been received from all parts of town. Considering the Ordinance had temporarily been suspended, it may need to be advertised on Front Porch Forum. John pointed out that seeing some sites getting cleaned up should be encouraging to residents.

Michelle and Rick reported seeing trash in the Lamoille River while they were kayaking. The Committee will follow up with Andy Duff about river cleanup.

Michelle shared with members a copy of a brochure the Town of Barton distributes with waste disposal and recycling information. It includes a price list to dispose of items at their landfill. It appears to have been created in conjunction with Casella. Kurt will get the name of our Casella representative and see what options may exist for Wolcott.

*VT Rt 15 Home - on watch: This site appears to be under control, so will be removed from the watch list.

*Town Hill Rd - Excessive junk on property in view of the roadway: This situation appears to have been corrected, so will be removed from the list.

*Morey Hill Rd - Excessive garbage on property, rats sighted: This property remains a problem and will require action.

*Town Hill Rd - Excessive garbage stored in open boat: This property has been cleaned up, so will be removed from the list.

*North Wolcott Rd - Illegal junkyard - referred to State pre-Covid: The State was recently in Wolcott working on a different property. It appears the Committee will need to address this matter. A letter can be sent regarding cleanup requirements, or the

owner can apply for a junk yard permit and comply with that law. If no action, the next step would be a fine.

*Flat Iron Rd - Excessive junk cars visible from road - referred to State pre-Covid: It appears the Committee will need to address this matter.

*East Elmore Rd - Excessive garbage stored on flat bed truck: This matter has been resolved, so will be removed from the list.

Discussion on bulk item day at transfer station: Discussion ensued regarding Craftsbury's free bulk waste event last month, and whether Wolcott might be able to do something similar. John shared with Committee members an article about the event. John noted that the collection of bulk items was probably expensive for Craftsbury. The Committee agreed that Wolcott would want to pursue funding. LRSWMD is a potential source. John will reach out to his contact in Craftsbury to try to determine the cost of their cleanup.

Adjourn: Motion by Michelle to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Kurt. Voting: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein