

# Wolcott Litter & Solid Waste Ordinance Committee Minutes August 26, 2021

Zoom/phone-in: 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, Kurt Klein, John Wheeler, Rick Harkins  
Absent: Fay Lauber, Barbara Conn  
Scribe: Deb Klein

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Committee Chair, Michelle, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** An update on the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD) was added to New Business.

**Approve Minutes of July 26, 2021:** Motion by John to approve the Minutes of July 26.  
Seconded by Kurt. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

**Comments from the Community/Correspondence:**

-Fay reported to Kurt that she observed the front end of a car dumped in a ditch along East Hill Road.

-The owner of the Morey Hill residence that remains on the complaint list contacted the Town Clerk on a tax matter, and also asked for assistance with cleaning up the property. The tax matter will be referred to the Selectboard. Kurt will bring up with the owner the excessive garbage and junk on the property, and the health hazard it creates. Kurt will also inquire about animals living at the property. Discussion ensued regarding how the Committee may assist in cleanup. Motion by Kurt that should the Selectboard enter into a tax payment plan with the owner, that the owner be able to take garbage and items to the Wolcott Transfer Station, and then pay an additional \$10 per week as part of the payment plan until the Transfer Station fees have been recouped. Seconded by John. Voting: All in favor.

**New Business**

**Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD) - Update:** Kurt reported that Susan Alexander, District Manager for LRSWMD, recently spoke to the Wolcott Selectboard about ideas to improve operations at the Transfer Station. The District has a cardboard bundler at their Stowe facility. Wolcott may be able to add its cardboard to the bundler and avoid the charge we now pay. The District collects batteries at their facilities. They will provide us with a bin for batteries that will be collected once per month. Kurt noted that the Selectboard is considering adjusting fees for scrap metal, and for recycling in an effort to run in the black. Kurt also noted that the Department of Corrections may not be able to provide an assistant through November. That is a matter the board will have to address.

**Preliminary Survey Results:** Michelle reported that 48 responses to the Litter Survey have been received so far. The survey has been posted twice on Front Porch Forum. It now may be accessed from the Town's website. Paper copies are available at Town Office. Michelle shared with the Committee figures and charts of the results so far. Generally, the survey indicates that many people are not aware of the Litter & Junk Ordinance, nor do they know how to file a complaint. Of those who responded, some folks are interested in helping to clean up the Town, preferably at scheduled dates/times. Most people noticed the Don't Trash Wolcott signs that had been posted around town. Michelle hopes to receive at least 100 responses. It was suggested the final results be posted on the Town's website. Kurt noted that the Committee can have a table at the September 10 event to discuss litter, the Ordinance, and seek replies to the survey.

**Solid Waste Complaints:**

-Zack's Woods illegal dumping: Kurt was made aware of a complaint of illegal dumping on Zack's Woods Road leading to the ponds. It was reported that a couch, mattress, baby toys, other items, and trash bags were dumped. A question arose as to whether the items were on State-owned land. John stated he observed the dumped items himself, and it is on Wolcott property. Kurt and John will meet on Saturday to pick up the items and take them to the Transfer Station. Michelle suggested forming a crew made up of volunteers who are willing to do clean up in the future.

-Morey Hill Road: Discussed under Comments from the Community.

Open issues recorded prior to Ordinance petition and COVID:

-North Wolcott Road - illegal junkyard. The owner could be sent an application for a junkyard. Or, it may be more appropriate to issue a citation.

-Flat Iron Road - excessive junk cars. The State inspector had determined that the majority of the cars were current on registration, so the situation does not fall under the language of the Town's Ordinance.

**Bulk Item Day at Transfer Station - Update:** John had distributed to Committee members a copy of the newspaper article regarding Craftsbury's bulk item day. John had requested financial information from the Craftsbury group, but has had no reply. There was some discussion about whether ARPA funds may be used to hold a bulk day.

Michelle has been researching mattress recycling. There are mattress recyclers in several states. This seems like something that should be pursued in Vermont. Kurt offered to contact the District to see what they are doing about mattresses. He can also inquire about any proposed legislation.

It was suggested the Don't Trash Wolcott signs be posted around Town in early October. More signs may need to be ordered.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein

