

Wolcott Litter & Solid Waste Ordinance Committee Meeting November 1, 2022

5:30 p.m., Zoom

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
Scribe: Deb Klein

Michelle Cortes-Harkins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: Michelle asked to include discussion on who may access the Helpsy bins at the Transfer Station. No objection. Michelle stated she had received an inquiry about whether non-Wolcott residents may make donations to the Helpsy bins. Questions arose about how to determine when the bins are full and need to be emptied. Also, will Helpsy follow a set schedule, or will they respond to empty the bins when called. Helpsy can access the bins even if the Transfer Station is not open. Michelle will ask Helpsy if the Committee can get the combination for the bins so they can be opened to see how full they are. Overall, the Committee agrees that the bins provide a good service that should attract customers to the Transfer Station, and they are a revenue generator. Once the Committee's questions are answered, the consensus is it should be okay for all folks to access the bins.

Litter Committee Proposed Budget for 2023-2024: Members reviewed a proposed budget document prepared by Michelle for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. It was noted that more funds may need to be requested for the spring Bulky Day. As word spreads about the event, there may be more participation. It is difficult to anticipate how much revenue may be generated from the Helpsy bins. The Committee will review year-to-date spending from this year's budget and then make adjustments. The proposed budget will be presented to the Selectboard at their November 16 meeting.

Approve Minutes of September 22, 2022: Motion by Kurt to approve the Minutes of September 22.
Seconded by Rick. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

Comments from the Community/Correspondence: Kurt noted that an individual had picked up trash that had been dumped in the pull-out along VT Rte 15 near Town Hill Road and brought it to Town Office for disposal. Generally, citizens can take trash that they pick up along the roadside directly to the Transfer Station during their operating hours. Trash bags should not be brought to Town Office for disposal due to limited space. For trash that has been dumped along the highway, the State Highway office in Morrisville can be contacted. The State will pick up the trash, although it will not be an immediate response.

New Business

Helpsy Update: Michelle and Rick spent time last Saturday morning at the Transfer Station to assist individuals in accessing the Helpsy bins. People seem enthusiastic about the ability to donate textiles, and will spread the word. It appears that folks understand their donations need to be bagged. The Transfer Station attendant has a supply of bags if needed. Michelle understands that Helpsy will also

have bags if needed for loose items when they empty the bins. The list of what Helpsy will accept will be affixed to the outside of the bins. It will be noted that no commercial use of the bins is allowed. Michelle noted that while at the Transfer Station, she was asked questions about the ability to recycle or dispose of other items such as Styrofoam and batteries. The Stowe Transfer Station serves as a model for what can be recycled. Michelle would like to pursue getting legislation in Vermont to provide for mattress disposal. Examples of such legislation can be found in Rhode Island, California, and New York. Mattresses could be collected at the Transfer Station and recycled by Bye Bye Mattress. After the mid-term elections, local legislators can be invited to attend a Litter Committee meeting to begin discussions.

Green Up Day – Update: The Committee’s first fall Green Up Day was held Saturday, October 22. Bags were available at the Gazebo. Chili, Sloppy Joe’s, and desserts were provided to volunteers who stopped by. Michelle noted that folks did not sign up to volunteer as they did for the spring event. Nonetheless, there were 25 bags of trash and 2 bags of bottles and cans picked up along the roadsides the next day. The Committee can look at different means of communicating the event next time.

Solid Waste Complaints:

- The Morey Hill location is being investigated by State authorities. A dumpster was recently observed on the property.
- Kurt will try to get an update from the State regarding the status of the North Wolcott junk yard.
- John reported an increase in junk cars, trailers, and trash at a property in North Wolcott near the Craftsbury line. This property will be added to the next Agenda.

Adjourn: Motion by Kurt to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Rick. Voting: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein