

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting October 3, 2007

Present: Craig Blake, Nancy Brumback, Carolyn Lee, John Pearson, Thomas Powers, Eric Richard.

Absent: Peter Harvell, Thomas Young

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, the meeting was convened at 7:37 p.m. in the Conference Room at the DPW Facility, 275 Old Lancaster Rd. The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Chairman John Pearson. In keeping with the agenda published in the previous minutes (9-20-07), the minutes were reviewed and accepted as presented. Move to accept by Craig, second by Eric, accepted unanimously. It was agreed that we would hold all future meetings at this location, since the Flynn Building is not available on 1st Wednesdays.

Agenda Items: Tom completed an analysis of about 30 towns and presented all of the data gathered and his proposed towns for comparison – 6 1st choice and 6 alternates were highlighted. Primary criteria he used were overall population, population density, median household income, % single family housing and to a lesser extent how many with children living at home and median age. We discussed the various merits of the analysis and extended our gratitude for all the work done. We discussed how much of our criteria should be totally objective vs. including some subjective criteria. We agreed that some further analysis would help us to answer those questions and be more confident of the towns we select. We also noted that criteria we might want to consider, but were not in the current information are household income as compared to housing costs and the tax burden. The fact that there is nowhere any accurate data on the tonnage of waste generated for any town that is not 100% municipal collection is the reason this will not be one of our criteria. We don't even know that for Sudbury. We concluded that it will take us two more meetings to fully analyze this data and prepare it for Selectmen's review.

Action: Eric will take the data, put into Excel, then rank order all the listed towns based on how much they differ from Sudbury in each category and report this information back to the committee.

Action: John will contact Maureen re getting on the Selectmen's agenda soon after November 7 to discuss the proposed towns.

We discussed further the questions for the selected towns. The list from the last meeting is agreed to fulfill our mission statement and be open ended questions so that we learn more – no yes or no answers possible. In general, there will be an expanding tree of specific questions depending on the initial answers to the broader questions.

Action: Carolyn will add a subset to question 1: If all collection is curbside, is it managed by the municipality or is the management contracted to a private hauler.

The broad agenda for meetings through the end of the year was established. Repeat: All meetings will be at the DPW, not the Flynn Building. The meeting topics will be:

October 17: review Eric's weightings of the town information and discuss how we will present this. Between this and the November 7 meeting, the presentation will be drafted with drafts circulated for comments

November 7: Review planned presentation to Selectmen – finalize.

November 28: Prepare questions for meeting with Merritt personnel on December 12, per John's conversation with Merritt.

December 12: Meeting with personnel from Merritt to review what they did before, listen to what new they have to offer and ask questions.

Old Business: John did contact Mr. Trashman and get detailed information, completing our gathering of data on current Sudbury haulers. This was most interesting, since Mr. Trashman DID have the data on what he picks up in Sudbury. He noted that Sudbury is the ONLY town in which he operates where the Board of Health does not require registration/ licensing of all waste haulers, and that he was surprised when he tried to register here to learn this was not possible or required.

Action: Carolyn will send out the Excel sheet with all of the hauler information summarized together.

New Business: Eric made a presentation on research he did on what the state laws about registration of trash haulers and the towns ability to regulate them state. Notable is that MGL, Chapter 111, Section 31A **mandates** that all trash services which drives the streets of a town to pick up any form of trash first obtain a permit to do so from the local Board of Health. Since Sudbury does not currently provide this possibility, we are causing all haulers to violate state laws. Further, towns are empowered to make further laws requiring the haulers to provide information about how much of what they haul, to where they haul it, etc. And the towns can collect fees for licensing on a variety of bases, including per truck. A partial list of towns already collecting fees was in the presentation.

Action: John will talk to Maureen about whether anything is wanted from us for the April '08 town meeting in terms of proposed interim actions.

The next meeting will be October 17 at 7:30 pm at the DPW. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Attest:

Carolyn Lee, Clerk, SWMOC