

Dover Recycling Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2020, 7 p.m.

Via Zoom

Members Present: Carol Lisbon, Chris Poulsen, Wendy Muellers, Leesa Mullin, Lindsay Nie, Janit Greenwood

1. Opening

Chair Chris Poulsen opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

2. Regular Business

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes of 5/12/20 were reviewed and approved by a vote of 6-0.
- B. Transfer Station Operations
 - a. Trash tonnage is increasing since books, deposit containers, the swap shop, textiles and furniture recycling are currently closed.
 - b. Our electronic sign is being used to convey social distancing and new policy reminders. Per approved policy, Janit to get access to insure up-to-date messaging. *
 - c. We have been informed by a Transfer Station attendant that there are a significant number of cars coming to the TS that need the “new” red stickers. COVID procedure needs to be developed and communicated. * Some % of cars may be COVID evacuees that have come back to Dover.
 - d. The Committee expressed a desire to work with the BOH and COVID Taskforce to plan for the reopening of the closed recycling areas.
 - e. Plans developed over the past several months by Craig Hughes and the Committee to change some physical aspects of the TS need to be reassessed. COVID has identified issues which must be considered in the long-term plans for the TS.
- C. Communications
 - a. Janit to rewrite welcome letter.

3. New Business

- A. The Committee will continue to research best practices for TS operations and re-opening during COVID. Input to Dover’s COVID Task Force and Board of Health will be provided. Janit has developed a contact list of over a dozen Transfer Stations to share best practices and ideas for reopening. There is a 6/16 webinar on this topic that will be attended by committee members. As of 4/28 COVID-19 Essential Services directive from the State: Support to ensure the effective removal, storage, and disposal of residential and commercial solid waste, recycling, and hazardous waste, including landfill operations.

As of today: Textile and book bins are open (and were never closed) at: Sherborn, Medfield, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hingham, Hanson, Kingston and Scituate. Textile and Book bins remain closed in Needham. Textile bin never closed in Wellesley. Book bin remains closed in Wellesley.

1. Deposit trailer: With the closing and revised policies of bulk redemption centers throughout the state, most towns are searching for a solution to final disposal. An issue for Dover, especially if we wish to continue the involvement of Dover's non-profits, is the convenience and location of the drop-off point. Wellesley takes their redeemable containers to Milford and gets paid for them. They are currently storing the containers until Milford reopens. The Walpole Redemption Center is currently on reduced hours and limiting bulk redemptions. The current Deposit trailer is problematic given its design. The State has reopened retail over-the-counter deposit activities eff. 6/19/20 with procedures to be followed. These procedures are somewhat adaptable for transfer stations.
2. Books/Textiles: Baystate Textiles and More Than Words are currently operating in many of their service areas. As of today: Textile and book bins are open (and were never closed) at: Sherborn, Medfield, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hingham, Hanson, Kingston and Scituate. Textile and Book bins remain closed in Needham. Textile bin never closed in Wellesley. Book bin remains closed in Wellesley.

The book bin has an open slot significantly larger than a mailbox slot. Possible solutions to contact concerns include: smaller wide-open collections bins for books placed in furniture shed, and placement of wipes/ hand sanitizer dispensers by bins.

- B. Website: the new Town website will soon be up and running. A major focus of committee activities will be to update various sections of information.
- C. Grants: At its 6/4 meeting the BOS will be asked to approve the grant applications below:
 1. Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) Grant: we have 13 points this year and the \$ per point will be determined by Mass DEP and announced in the Sept/Oct timeframe. This grant has ranged from \$3,000-\$6,000 in years past.
 2. Small Scale Initiatives Grant: based on the town's population and provides \$ that we can use toward bins and bin subsidization. This grant is expected to be \$750.
 3. Drop-Off Recycling Equipment Grant: applied for \$6,000 to be used to build a new larger Swap Shop on the concrete pad where the current furniture shed is and to repurpose the current Swap Shop to a larger more sanitary Deposit Container Redemption Center. Craig Hughes has participated extensively in this plan and it reflects his input and plans for the Transfer Station.

4. Adjournment

At 8:36 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.
The motion was approved 6-0.

5. Next Meetings: 7/8, 8/5, 9/9, 10/7, 11/18, 12/9

Respectfully Submitted, Carol Lisbon

*action

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting:

- Meeting minutes of 5/12/20