

DORSET ENERGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 1, 2010 Meeting

PRESENT: Alex Bornstein, Alan Calfee , Doug Colson, Jim Hand, Jim Salsgiver, Tony Panetta, Rob Gaiotti (Town Manager), Ellen Maloney.

GUESTS: Joseph Soulia and Dale Baker, Casella Waste Management

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING:

Casella has introduced “Zero-Sort” in its trash pick-up service. All recyclables can be placed together in one large container for curbside pickup. They will be machine sorted at the Chittenden Solid Waste facility which is single stream.

The Northshire Transfer Station (E. Dorset) is dual stream. Residents sort the recyclables on location. They are then sent to the MRF (Materials Recycling Facility) in Rutland. Joe Soulia is in charge there. The Town gets back a share of the sales proceeds of the recyclables. The Town is charged by the ton for the trash, which also goes to Rutland.

THE MORE THAT IS RECYCLED (taken out of the waste stream) THE GREATER THE TOWN’S SAVINGS, both because we would pay for less trash and get more money back for recycling.

If recyclables are improperly mixed or “contaminated” the buyer can reject the entire load and charge back for the cost of disposing of it as waste. It can also impose a fine. Those charges come back against the town. Joe Soulia reported that rejected loads have not been a significant problem in recent times, but proper sorting can significantly influence revenues from recycling. The percentage of the waste stream that is diverted by recycling, in Vermont & in our area, is relatively low at about 30%. Surprisingly, Vermont ranks fairly poorly on this measure versus other states (Alex Bornstein noted that Portland is well above 50% with its concerted effort to encourage recycling). We need to raise our percentage.

Ideas were discussed for education/awareness of the financial savings involved in recycling as well as how to measure improvements. We need to market that the Town gets back money for recycling. A possible approach that was discussed is putting up a recycling “thermometer” like the one used to show progress toward the United Way’s goals.

Tony Panetta and Bill Laberge will be working on developing a display table on recycling for Town Meeting. Casella will supply some of the educational materials and hand outs for the table.

Casella is going to put up “NO IDLING” signs at each transfer station.

Casella will replace the signage at the transfer station to better indicate what goes where, and what they do and don’t take. Hand outs will also be available at the transfer station, and an information booth may be created. Drafts of new signs and materials will be brought by Dale to our next meeting. (March 1st)

Other news: Dale is now the manager of both the Northshire and the Sunderland stations.

We can now recycle PIZZA BOXES with the cardboard (OOC) and boxboard (cereal boxes) Newspaper, junk mail, magazines and office paper can all go in together.

Randy Dapron will be negotiating the new contract for Casella. We should begin preparing this spring.

Our Town is a member of the consortium (Arlington, Sunderland, Sandgate, Manchester and Dorset) which negotiates with Casella.

ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCES:

Tony Panetta handed out a comprehensive written report: "Recap: Jan 27, 2010." Copies may be obtained from Tony Panetta. It discusses the energy generating potential of the Dorset and East Dorset springs through micro-hydro turbines and the school as a possible wind turbine site to generate the school's electricity. A pro bono feasibility survey may be available for the wind turbine possibility. Jim Salsgiver has provided the school's energy data. More info will be available by the next meeting.

Regarding energy from biomass, Alan Calfee will be in touch with Bill Laberge.

SITE VISITS:

As part of our resource study we will visit the Vermont Wood Pellet Company plant on 2/12/10. Jim Salsgiver is to arrange the time and logistics.

Jim Salsgiver is also going to arrange for a visit to Derek Cornell's wind turbine.

ENERGY COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Jim Hand reported to the Select Board at their last meeting. He was reappointed for a one year term as Energy Coordinator. A quarterly report to the Select Board Meeting is due soon.

TOWN MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER:

There were a number of compliments to Rob Gaiotti for taking this initiative. Rob Gaiotti will draft something generic for the first issue to introduce the Energy Committee.

Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network (VECAN):

Jim Salsgiver has placed contact details and a description of the work of the Dorset Energy Committee on the VECAN website – in the area that provides information on town energy committees Statewide. Jim Hand is identified as the Committee contact, and Jim Salsgiver will be responsible for providing updates for the VECAN site.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Ellen Maloney will contact TAM and Breton Towslee to see if they offer any recycling opportunities. Ellen will also contact Renee Bornstein to see if she can work on a display on The Dorset School's composting project for Town Meeting, or how else we might coordinate.

Respectfully, Ellen Maloney and Jim Salsgiver.

NEXT DORSET ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE MARCH 1, 2010 AT THE SPIRAL PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM AT 8:30 am.