

SWAC Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2020

In attendance -

Phil Harris, Phil LeBlanc, Jack Fritz, Stephanie Peters, Peter Blood, Patrick Miglio, John A. Kinnaird, Zac Fleagle

Meeting Started at 6:33

Introductions

Approval of Minutes -

Motion by Peter Blood, all in favor.

Department update, Phil Harris.

Solid Waste Management Plan is awaiting MDE review and approval.
County Council and Executive have approved the large office recycling plan.
Covid-19 has slowed many of the processes required for final approval of plans.

Department changes Kevin has retired and there will be two separate divisions. Water & Sewer and Solid Waste & Recycling. This change could take up to two years to accomplish.
Phil is now director of Solid Waste and Recycling.

Election of Officers -

Zac is interested in serving as Chairperson, Unanimous vote to appoint him.
Motion by Pat Miglio second by John Kinnaird to appoint Peter Blood as Vice Chairperson, unanimous vote in favor of appointment.
Secretary position will remain open with members rotating record keeping.

New Board Members -

Peter Blood mentioned several individuals are interested in joining SWAC. He made a motion to approve all applicants, seconded by Phil LeBlanc.
Deb Moran business & industry, Katherine Esposito civic organization, Linda Coyle at large.
Unanimous vote in favor of accepting new members. Slate will pass to the County Council for approval.

Old Business -

Phil LeBlanc asked about the recycling contract renewal. Phil noted that the costs are increasing and a possible contract may be reviewed at the next meeting.
Phil does not expect any substantial changes in what kinds of recycling will be accepted. The savings of approximately \$1.00 per ton with the removal of glass was not worth the change.
Phil Leblanc questioned changes in the industry. Some communities are removing glass and certain plastics. These changes would not have a noticeable impact in our program.

Jack, is glass sent to the landfill? Phil told us that glass is an end of the line material and is often reduced to chips in the recycling process. Glass is returned to the landfill and used as ground cover rather than purchasing gravel for this purpose.

Phil LeBlanc asked if there are any specific requests from residents. Phil says residents want as much recycling as possible. If there is no market for recycled material we should not collect it but this will result in a loss of public trust in recycling. One item in particular is plastics labeled 7-9, some jurisdictions recycle this but others do not.

Phil LeBlanc asked about PPE and how it impacts waste. Phil noted that PPE is not recycled. All hospital PPE is treated as contaminated waste. Home based waste is adding PPE to the landfill.

Phil LeBlanc inquired about landfill staff protection. Phil told us all staff are wearing face masks if they cannot maintain a safe distance. All wear masks when interacting with public. No cash payments are being accepted. Staff that can work from home are doing so. Stephanie and Phil are rotating time in the office. Generally there has been little disruption in operations.

The collection contract has not been awarded yet and will expire in early 2021. They are looking for a new contractor and may ask for a one year extension with the current provider. Phil warns that the next contract could show a \$1 million increase at a minimum.

Peter Blood asked if Phil can provide us with a current accounting of recycling income at the next meeting. These will be a snap shot of the prices at the time it is reviewed, prices change daily. As noted glass is currently being used as ground cover and the report will reflect this diversion from the recycling stream.

Pat Miglio asked if it would be possible to get a report to see how successful our recycling program is. He is concerned that our recycling efforts are not justified. Phil says that is not possible, the recycling processing industry does not share that information. There is no way to know where recycling ends up other than generalizations. It is important to understand that as long as the end product is being purchased there is a market value for it. Peter noted that Roland Clarke was always interested in the cradle to grave path of recycling. Phil said that currently there are delays in recycling of specific materials due to lack of demand and others can be reused many times over.

Phil told us that at future meetings public comment will be allowed. Public participation will require additional work but should not be an big issue. We indicated that public comment at the end of the meeting may be the best option. Stephanie says they can make live comments or send comments via email that will be read into the record. Pewter says this is a technical process and should be addressed at the end of the meeting. He does not think there will be much public comment. Phil LeBlanc recommends having voice only comments and to try to accommodate them by making it as flexible as possible. Peter also prefers live voice comments opposed to email.

Phil LeBlanc asked if there are any future plans we will need to review. Phil says the Solid Waste Management Plan will not be changed and will not require review. The recent separation with the division may provide SWAC with some items to review or make recommendations on. The legislative session may also give SWAC some items to review.

Motion to adjourn by Peter Blood, second by ?
Motion passed, meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Minutes submitted by John A. Kinnaird