

Lee Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2019, 6:30pm
Lee Safety Complex

Members present: Amy Schmidt (chair, via Skype), Dean Rubine, Randy Stevens

Officials Present: Steve Bullek, Public Works Manager

Members absent: none

Public present:

Paul Gasowski, chair Lee Sustainability Committee

Shirley McKeon, Swap Shop Volunteer Coordinator

Huw Powell, Swap Shop Volunteer

Mark Weir, Swap Shop Volunteer

Harriet Currier, Swap Shop Volunteer

Sally Fleming, Swap Shop Volunteer

Lynn Kuegel, Swap Shop Volunteer

I. Call to order - 6:32 pm

Dean: Since Amy is attending via Skype and Randy doesn't want to, I'll chair. I'll remind the committee that when a member participates by speakerphone all votes must be roll call votes.

Looks like folks are here to talk about the swap shop so let's move that up ahead of compost.

II. Approval of Minutes

4-1-2019 minutes. Dean moved, Randy 2nd, Dean suggests amending to note reports are now on district website. Randy: Aye, Amy: Aye, Dean: Aye. 3-0, approved as amended.

4-29-2019 minutes. Dean moved, Randy 2nd, Randy: Aye, Amy: Aye, Dean: Abstain. 2-0-1, approved unamended.

6-10-2019 minutes. Dean moved, Randy 2nd, amended to note 4/1 minutes not yet approved. Randy: Aye, Amy: Aye, Dean: Aye. Minutes approved 3-0 as amended.

III. Swap Shop (Steve)

Dean: Let's start with Steve Bulleck, Public Works Manager, who as recently taken over as Transfer Station Manager and then open it up to discussion.

Steve: I've checked the swap shop five times. I found florescent bulbs, which aren't allowed. There were smoke detectors, two bags of stuffed animals. There was paint. None of these are

allowed. I just started this job so we're likely up for inspection. I don't want to lose my license or be fined for these violations.

Shirley: I'm in charge of the volunteers but I was not informed of these violations. I heard on Facebook the swap shop would close.

Dean: I'll note that the committee heard about Manager Bulleck's request to close the swap shop only after last week's select board meeting. The committee respectfully requests that the manager seek the committee's council or at least inform the committee before bringing likely controversial requests to the select board.

Volunteer: The paint wasn't a swap shop item; it was for painting the swap shop itself. We were waiting for good weather to start.

Steve: The paint can't be in the swap shop. I informed the volunteers working at the time of the violations. The select board request was only to seek the authority to close the swap shop; I hope we can keep it open.

Shirley: The message about violations was not relayed to me. We are also waiting for a list of acceptable items.

Amy: [after discussion] Toby was working on the list. It doesn't seem like it was ever completed.

Steve: I put together a list from some other swap shops. We can review it to decide for each item whether it's acceptable or not. There are issues about electronics, glass, big mirrors.

Harriet: Shirley needs to be informed about all concerns and she will inform the rest of us.

Dean: It seems the committee has fallen short on communicating with Shirley. We apologize.

Paul: I suggest you include Shirley to your email distribution; she can forward appropriate stuff to the rest of the volunteers.

Amy: Great idea. In the future let's be sure to include Shirley on all committee emails. (Dean and Randy concur.)

Amy: The swap shop concerns started long before Steve took over. Toby had concerns too. Things didn't get better. Volunteers were accepting things that weren't usable. The shop was getting crowded. There was an issue of volunteers taking the better items. Toby was frustrated.

Steve: I'm worried about taking things that were wet and could be moldy.

Steve: The volunteers were also accepting things like the white sofa.

Mark: We collected the bulky fee. The sofas usually move in one day. We give the coupon back in that case.

Amy: That coupon policy was changed when we changed the bulky fees.

Mark: Toby asked us to do it.

Dean: That's odd. Toby concurred on the policy change. That's more bad communication on our part, sorry.

Mark: We like it better the new way, no coupon return. We'll do that going forward.

Dean: Why don't the swap shop volunteers go over the acceptable item list while we do the other items on our agenda? [They agree and use the adjoining conference room to confer.]

IV. Composting Pilot Implementation (Steve)

Steve: Program starts officially this Saturday, June 29. We have 56 families signed up so far. We have purchased 600 bags and distributed many of them. We purchased two bins from Mr. Fox Compost at \$80 each; we can get cheaper ones in the future from Home Depot. I've been in touch with Newmarket which recently started a similar program; they're generating 96 gallons a week with only 25 signups.

Amy: The Lee Church last weekend used compostable plates and utensils at its chicken barbeque. Jen Messeder handed out flyers about the Lee composting program. Thanks, Jen.

Dean: Let's make sure Steve knows that our goal for this pilot program is to learn as much as we can. We need to keep careful track of costs; we assured the selectmen we wouldn't spend more than \$800 for entire program, net of solid waste savings at \$80 per ton. We ask that the bins be weighed before Mr. Fox takes the contents and records kept. Please note any difficulties with smell, maintenance, manpower, participants, really anything. We'll keep it on the agenda as long as the program is running; Steve can report status.

Dean: I think we can all make a new effort to advertise now that we're all set up. I made a new poster I think is friendlier; let's post that around, Neighbor-Lee, ECrier, etc. Let's get a slide on the transfer station TV monitor. Let's make sure it's easy to sign up at the compost bin.

V. Burning Brush (Steve)

Steve: We can save \$5000 per pickup by burning brush instead of getting it hauled away.

Randy: Many towns burn in Strafford County. Barrington doesn't accept brush. We should get permission from the select board.

Steve: We can try burns during school vacations, and the middle of the night. The fire warden said the state warden will check us. Epping burns.

Dean: Are there sustainability issues with burning?

Randy: The brush is probably burned after it's hauled away, so burning locally saves fuel.

VI. Website (Amy)

Our page on the district website should have the swap shop link, and the policies for the swap shop we passed 10 months ago. The volunteers were supposed to read and sign these. We should have the list of acceptable items for the swap shop. We should update the bulky fee list to the new one in the Guide:

Action Items: update the 2018 Guide to the Lee Transfer Station, new bulky fee list, other changes. Update link, include compost stuff. Collect up documents to put on the website. Delete "other plastics." Prepare a list of changes for the next meeting.

VII. Waste Market Update (Steve)

Mixed paper: -\$32.50/ton (- means we pay).

Cardboard: +\$37.50/ton (we receive).

Scrap metal +\$120/ton.

VIII. Swap Shop (continued)

[Volunteers back]. Shirley: We suggest closing the swap shop January through March, it's too cold and too slippery. [Committee and Steve concur.]

New parking lot is a huge improvement.

Acceptable items for the swap shop. Committee and volunteers have a long discussion, come up with list; Steve will compile and send it around. Shirley will get it to the volunteers.

Dean: Let's post the list on E-Crier and Neighbor Lee too.

Steve: We're going to check stickers on Saturday to try to reduce the non-Lee residents using the swap shop.

Volunteers: Willy (former Lee resident and outstanding volunteer) is not allowed in the dump/swap shop. Dean: Can we make an exception? Discussion; Steve says he can go to the swap shop but he can't throw his garbage in the transfer station.

Dean: The committee thanks the volunteers for coming. I think we've worked out our problems and we should be better going forward. We're sorry about the contentious way this meeting started. Please extend our apologies to Huw.

IX. Next Meeting date and topics for Agenda.

Agenda: Website. Compost pilot is on the agenda until further notice.

Phone out of power; we lost connection with Amy at this point. Next meeting date to be determined.

X. Adjournment

8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted - Dean Rubine