

Candia Recycling & Energy Committee
Public Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2023

Attendance:

Committee members: Russ Dann, Dick Snow, Gail Thomas, and Al Couch.

The minutes from the September 28 meeting were approved.

The access road to the Recycling Center site was discussed. The road is on privately owned property, but when the Recycling Center property was initially purchased and the site plans were laid out, a permanent easement was arranged to provide easy access to the Recycling Center site. There was a recent issue with the new owner of the site, which was resolved. To address any future issues we will be putting together all of the legal documents and other site information so it can be easily accessible. It was also noted that there is a for sale sign recently posted on the property, so the ownership may change again in the future.

Dick brought up the subject of creating a revolving fund for the Recycling Center. This would enable having the recycling revenue set up in a special fund that would help cover expenses of the Recycling Center. Dick said this would be the most logical way to use the recycling revenue, as that money now goes into the general fund, and used for anything. All agreed with the idea, and Russ said he would work to establish a warrant article. Dick will help with the specifics of setting that up.

Dick talked about the recycling of plastic bags. The recycling of bags was started by Pattie Davis. She brought the bags to a local Hannaford that collected them and then sent them to Trex, which recycles the bags into products such as deck boards and furniture. Trex gives a park bench for every 500 pounds of bags that are turned in. Dick said that this program is on hold, but he is not sure the reason why. Russ said he definitely wants to keep the program going, and he will talk to Joe at the Recycling Center to find out what has happened.

Al spoke about the idea of making “clean “ wood available at the Recycling Center, so that any good wood that comes in could be stored in an area to give residents the opportunity to take it for re-use. He suggested using something like an old stake body. (Not mounted on a truck frame) With something like that, it could be kept all together and provide easy access. Also, it would be able to be moved around if necessary. Dick said he knew someone with an old truck he will be getting rid of, and he will talk to him to see if that would work. Al suggested that this could be set up as a test program to see if it works out. It would also have to be marked with a large sign that clearly states it is for clean wood only, and it is for re-use by anyone who needs it. The program would be a cost savings, as it would avoid transportation and landfilling fees. It would also keep re-useable material out of the landfill, which is important due to the limited capacity of landfills.

Setting up a safety barrier at the back of the site was discussed. There is now a large area behind the new brush bunkers that is being used for storage of equipment and materials. At the back of this area there is a very steep drop-off that has no barrier. Blocks or guardrail at back of this site would make sure that nothing gets dropped over the embankment.

Al mentioned that there is a new company in Saco, Maine called Tanbark. They are making molded fiber packaging that will be a good environmental alternative to the plastic "clamshell" containers. This packaging is a biodegradable alternative for the non-recyclable packaging that is currently being used for food products.

Next meeting- As the next regular meeting date would be Thanksgiving Day, the committee discussed alternative dates as we need to keep moving forward on things we are working on. It was agreed we would try to reserve the meeting room for Thursday, November 30th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Couch, Recycling & Energy Committee member