

Candia Recycling & Energy Committee
Public Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2020

Attendance:

Clay Caddy, Gail Thomas, Recycling Center BOS representative Russ Dann, Al Couch, Recycling Center Operator Chuck Whitcher, Dick Snow, and Swap Shop volunteers Cinny Griswold, Linda Bergeron, Laurie Lambert, Matt Cogswell, Pam McKenny, and Nancy Parkman.

Swap Shop volunteers were introduced, and it was noted that this meeting would be focused on the Swap Shop and how they can best handle the items that are coming in.

Swap Shop signage was discussed-a better sign is needed to make it clear that anyone dropping off items must check them in with a volunteer before leaving them, so it can be determined whether they are acceptable items or not. New signs are also needed to show what items are acceptable and what items are not.

Draft copies of information for new signs will be made up for review. After the information is agreed on, Chuck will have new signs made up.

Discussion on the donation box- it was suggested that the donation box be moved, as it is often hidden by items being brought in. It was agreed that the box could be moved to the wall near the door, provided it is properly secured.

Parking at the Swap Shop- there is often not enough parking for volunteers and the people looking in the Swap Shop. Chuck said there is sometimes a problem when someone parks on the access road when they are dropping off items as they may be blocking traffic. Parking is more a problem in the winter as there is no room to park off to the side. Chuck suggested that the volunteers park over near the main building, and also suggested putting cones up along the side of the Swap Shop so that there is room to handle items that are being dropped off.

There was a discussion on what items should be accepted and what should not. Some items specifically cannot be accepted, but other items can be at the discretion of the volunteer. Their decision would be based on whether they already have that particular item on hand, or they could decide based on the condition of the item, or decide not to accept it if there is not enough room. It was also made clear that ALL items should be checked by a volunteer, and this should be noted on the signs.

The new heater- Swap Shop volunteers said the new heater is great. It is making their time spent there on cold days much more comfortable. There was a review of the heater use- keeping at a reasonable temperature, and turning it down when the shop will be closed. Also, the amount of propane in the tank needs to be monitored, so a fill can be ordered when the tank is at 30% capacity.

Dick Snow talked about the new state energy bill that allows for municipal aggregation. This bill allows town residents and businesses to participate in a third party energy supply contract. As this all gets a bit complicated, it was decided that we would invite the town's power broker representative, Ryan Polson, to come to the February meeting to explain and discuss the new bill.

Solar energy-there was discussion on setting up an arrangement with Bob Mitchell, the owner of Historic Motor Sports, to buy excess solar power he may have. In previous discussions with Bob, he suggested that the town buy any excess solar power from the solar array he had just installed. Bob said he will run the system for a while to find out what he might have for excess energy. When he knows what he may have for excess power, Bob said we should talk again to work out a possible arrangement with the town. Al will contact Bob to see if he wants to set up a meeting.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 27 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Couch, Recycling & Energy Committee member