

Candia Recycling & Energy Committee  
Public Meeting Minutes  
March 23, 2023

Attendance:

Committee members: Clay Caddy, Dick Snow, Janet Lewis, Gail Thomas, Russ Dann, and Al Couch.

The NRRRA annual conference was discussed. This is a major event for recycling, and has many vendors from all of NE and beyond attending. There are also many informational workshops that give the latest information on recycling and other related subjects. Russ said that Chuck has set this up so that committee members can attend the event. This will be held on May 22nd & 23rd at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord.

Russ said that Chuck has gotten easels that can be placed around the Recycling Center building. They could be used to hold signs to post information for the Recycling Center. Russ asked for ideas on what should go onto the signs. Some suggestions were: Household Hazardous Waste Day, hours the center is open- especially when the evening hours begin, suggestion to call before bringing in brush. (Just in case the brush pile is not open.) Also, tips and suggestions to help with proper recycling could be posted. Russ made a specific suggestion to request people use aluminum cans instead of bottles whenever possible, because recycling cans earns money but glass disposal costs money.

Warrant articles- Russ said the warrant article for site work to re-build the brush and the compost bunkers was approved. The Household Hazardous Waste Day article was also approved.

Russ said the compost and brush pile project will begin when the weather is suitable to do the paving that is included in the project.

Al said that Recycling Center employee Rich Arsenault suggested that during the bunker re-construction project, that an area could be set up to hold clean (untreated and unpainted) wood that is currently being put in the C&D roll-off. This would be worth looking at doing because material in the roll-off cost money to dispose of. The clean wood – pallets, boards, and other clean wood could be useful to residents if there is an area they can conveniently pick the material up. Russ will look at the possibility of doing this.

Town Report book- although the Recycling Center report that Chuck did was in the book, Al mentioned that the Recycling & Energy Committee report was left out of the book. It was included in the index, but was not in the book.

Swap Shop- Gail asked why Habitat for Humanity was not picking up furniture from the Swap Shop. Al explained that the priority was to make things available to residents. Also, when Habitat first starting picking up items last year, they said they needed a minimum number of items to fill their truck. Also, they complained about the condition of many of the items. In addition, they wanted to pick items up at times convenient for them, which did not match the Center open hours. Because of these factors, we are no longer using them.

Swap Shop storage- Clay has spoken to Marsha about ideas to make storage for seasonal items better. Clay said he will work on this sometime this spring.

Swap Shop use- there was discussion on making a sign that notes that any items taken from the Swap Shop are for personal use only, and are not for re-sale. Other ideas to make sure this rule is followed will be discussed at the next meeting.

NRRA Compost bins- they are offering special containers for food waste composting and composting tools. They suggested taking orders from residents, and then ordering from NRRA by April 18. Orders must be full pallets only. It was felt that there are too many restrictions for this program, and the demand would not be high enough to participate, so no action will be taken at this time.

Dick brought up the idea of starting a revolving fund for the Recycling Center, He said that this could be used to lower line items in the annual Recycling Centers budget. Russ suggested that the idea is feasible, but it probably should wait until next year.

Community Power- Dick said the program to develop community purchase of power was going well. It will still take some time to put the full program together, but should be a very worthwhile effort. He said on the subject of lower power rates, he just received a mailer from a power company offering lower rates. Al said he received the same mailer from SmartEnergy. This company has sent mailers out several times, and these types of offers can be deceptive, because they charge a lower rate up front, and then several months later, raise the rates, There is also a penalty for backing out of their agreement. The Community Power program deals only with reputable and reliable power companies.

Styrofoam recycling-Russ discussed an article in NH Town and City magazine that tells about a new Styrofoam recycling program that the Town of Gilford now has. They are accepting Styrofoam from anywhere. The Styrofoam is then processed in its new foam densifier machine. The densified material can then be sold to plastic processors that can turn the material into new plastic products. We will look into this more to see if it might be logistically feasible to use this program.

Russ said they experimented with reducing leave waste by dumping them over the bank at the back of the site. The leaves take a long time to compost, and dumping them over the bank might help it to compose more quickly and help plants and grass to grow. It was difficult to do as the machines on site do not have a long enough reach, but the idea may still be feasible if they can find an effective way to dump them.

Next meeting will be April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Al Couch, Recycling & Energy Committee member