



CITY OF NEWTON
SOLID WASTE COMMISSION
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449
David B. Cohen, Mayor

Sydra Schnipper, Chair, David DelPorto, Vice Chair, Ann Dorfman, Steven Ferrey, Elaine Gentile, Barbara Herson, Nunzio Piselli, David Queenan, Robert Rooney, Ex-Officio
Advisory: Environmental Affairs Staff, Michael Rourke, David Turocy

Minutes
March 8, 2007

Present: Ald. Sydra Schnipper, David Queenan, Ann Dorfman, Robert Rooney, Dave Turocy, Nunzio Piselli, Barbara Herson

Sydra Schnipper motioned to approve the February 22, 2007 minutes. Unanimously accepted

Ann Dorfman reported on a recycling/solid waste conference she had attended. She indicated that the City of Toronto, Canada, has established a separate weekly food waste collection in conjunction with their regular recycling program. The merits of how this type of collection could be applied to Newton and the opportunities that could be found in this source of recycling. Possible ideas were pondered with a concept that Angino farm could be used as a pilot program for food waste collection. Ann will follow up with more logistical information

Robert Rooney and Sydra Schnipper met with Mayor Cohen to review the letter inviting Waste Management, Inc. to negotiate a new contract and the document outlining SWC's expectations of Waste Management. He gave a brief summation of the meeting with the Mayor and reviewed the expectation document. The Law Dept. has reviewed the letter for legalities and has given approval to go forward. Once Mayor Cohen gives final approval, the letter is expected to be mailed in today's mail. Sydra Schnipper made a motion to support letter. Nunzio Piselli seconded the motion. Unanimous.

The Strategic Committee outlined a vision of the evolution of future of solid waste and how this will impact the negotiations and ultimately the contract. They also recommend limited window of negotiation with current hauler while simultaneously developing the RFP.

There is a basis of support for inclusion into the solid waste stream reduction program new markets consisting especially of the condominiums, non profits and commercial establishments.

Consideration of how the program would expand either as part of the regular route or as a separate contract program will be explored in negotiations with WMI. Costs will increase with this program. Recycling service only will also be considered. An option of offering services at a reduced cost to help offset cost increase with a pay as you throw was considered.

There have been no studies conducted as to what happens to trash which does not make it into the pay as you throw program. It is understood that at least 10% of the trash disappears. Could this be seen as a motivation to donate used material to charitable organizations.

A decision will be made as to who will sit at the negotiation table with WMI. The Law Dept suggested that 5-6 people would be a sufficient number of people to negotiate. Once the participants are selected, the group

speaker will be named. Ald. Schnipper raised Elaine Gentile's concern about the availability of legal advice during the negotiation process. If outside council is needed, the Mayor would support it.

Ann Dorfman requested that another consultant be hired to work with the strategic sub committee to provide guidance and framework. John Merritt will be asked to attend the next meeting for involvement on the next step of negotiations with WMI as they should have responded by then.

Barbara Herson mentioned that Heather Rogers, author of "Gone Tomorrow, The Hidden Life of Garbage" will speak about her book as part of the environmental speaker series in conjunction with the Newton Library and the Green Coalition Decade on May 21. This will be held at the library.

Ald. Schnipper is concerned that people should know they are allowed more than one recycle bin for overflows. This information is printed on the new brochure. Cardboard is also a very big concern as people don't cut up the cardboard for recycling, but instead it ends up in the main waste stream. There should be a focus on how to educate people to properly prepare cardboard for collection.

The contracting sub committee will meet on Thurs. March 15, at 7:30 am
The Strategic sub committee will meet on Friday, March 16, at 7:30am

The Solid Waste Commission has established its own website link on the City Website. Go to Newton Website, click on committees, scroll down to Solid Waste Commission and click onto site.

Sincerely Submitted,

Angela Clark
Executive Administrator

