

Wolcott Litter & Solid Waste Ordinance Committee Meeting

February 24, 2022

5:30 p.m. Zoom

All Minutes are draft until approved by the Committee
Please see future Minutes for approval of these Minutes

Present: Michelle Cortes-Harkins, Rick Harkins, Kurt Klein, Barbara Conn, Andy Duff, John Wheeler
Absent: Fay Lauber
Scribe: Deb Klein

Michelle Cortes-Harkins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: Motion by Michelle to move up River Cleanup on the Agenda. Seconded by Rick. All in favor.

River Cleanup: Andy would like to organize a cleanup of a portion of the Lamoille River this summer. Andy will note the extent of debris in the river during his annual kayak trip in May. The river cleanup would take place in June or July. It could take several days, depending upon the number of volunteers. Andy has applied for a \$500 grant from Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District to reimburse disposal costs. Andy estimates disposal costs could exceed \$500. It was suggested that the Litter Committee could help with disposal. Andy will stay in touch.

Approve Minutes of January 27, 2022: Motion by John to approve the Minutes of January 27. Seconded by Kurt. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

Comments/Correspondence: Kurt received a copy of a letter from the State, as well as an email, that can be addressed during the illegal junkyard discussion.

John noted there is a washing machine and some other items dumped on West Hill Road on the way to the ponds. Those items will need to be removed in the spring.

New Business

Planning for Bulk Waste Day: Michelle had sent to members two documents: a sample flyer, and Guidelines on what would or would not be accepted for review. Following discussion, it was decided to limit the event to Wolcott residents. Construction waste, concrete, and asphalt will not be accepted. Metal items will be accepted since the Transfer Station can get money for those. The cost for a roll-off is \$200. Casella charges \$85 per ton for waste. Kurt guesstimates there would be three tons.

Michelle emphasized the need for planning for the event. Posters, or a sign, can be made at Big Graphics that would state clearly for folks what will, and will not, be accepted. It is recommended that data be collected. It would be good to have a count of the number of vehicles, as well as the total weight of waste collected. That information could be important for future grants. Volunteers will be needed. It is anticipated the event will be on a Saturday and will follow the same hours, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., as the Transfer Station. A date for the event will be determined at the next meeting.

Textile Day: Helpsy will bring a container, but a non-profit is needed to host the event. It is the non-profit that receives the rebate from Helpsy. It was noted that Ballet Wolcott is a non-profit. It is anticipated that such an event could be held in the fall. Michelle will reach out to Helpsy regarding resources.

Solid Waste Complaints

***Marsh Road abandoned property:** It was reported there is a third abandoned property on Marsh Road in addition to the mobile home and house discussed at the last meeting. Wolcott's Ordinance does not cover abandoned property. Kurt noted that Johnson amended their Ordinance to address abandoned or dilapidated properties if they are considered an attractive nuisance. It would require a report from a Health Officer or other official, basically condemning the building. The process then is to request removal of the property. If that does not occur, then it moves on to the Judicial Bureau. Kurt will talk with the Selectboard to see if there is any interest in adding such a section to the Wolcott Ordinance.

***Morey Hill Road #1:** Kurt reported that the landowner is taking advantage of the credit line offered at the Transfer Station. It has been recommended to the owner that she take advantage of Covid-based grants offered by the State to assist her with cleaning up the property, and with paying back taxes. The situation will continue to be monitored.

***Morey Hill Road #2:** This is another example of an abandoned property where the mobile home has now caved in. The landowner is not cooperative.

Open issues reported to the State:

***North Wolcott Road Illegal Junkyard:** Kurt reported that he received a copy of a letter that the State sent to the landowner. Kurt also received an email in which the State investigator indicated he will visit the property after March 1 and then decide whether to report the owner to the Enforcement Division. If that occurs, the landowner would then be contacted by an attorney. Kurt will follow up after the investigator visits the property.

***Flat Iron Road – excessive junk cars:** This matter was referred to the State. Kurt will follow up with the investigator after resolution of the illegal junkyard case.

Adjourn: Motion by Michelle to adjourn. Seconded by Rick. Voting: All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.