

Wolcott Litter & Solid Waste Ordinance Committee Meeting June 30, 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, John Wheeler, Barbara Conn, Linda Martin
Absent: Fay Lauber, Andy Duff
Scribe: Deb Klein

Michelle Cortes-Harkins, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: None.

Approve Minutes of May 25, 2022: Motion by Kurt to approve the Minutes of May 25. Seconded by John. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

Comments from the Community/Correspondence: Kurt received a response from Nick Caputo, Parks Regional Manager for the Northeast Region, regarding campers leaving trash by Perch Pond. Caputo indicated new rules have been instituted for that camping area now that it is part of the Vermont State Park system. There is now a \$10 per night fee, and a maximum three-day stay at the campsite. A ranger from the Green River Reservoir is checking the area daily. Caputo indicated that they have cleared a lot of trash out of the area. Kurt believes the camping season ends on Indigenous Peoples' Day.

New Business

Planning for Fall Green Up Day: Last year's fall green up day was October 23. There are only five green bags left over from May. All members are asked to consider which roads should be prioritized for coverage. Last fall the focus was on Gulf Road, Cross Road, and East Hill Road. The date for this fall's green up day was set for October 22.

Craftsbury Bulk Waste Day: Michelle talked with Penelope Doherty with the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD) regarding Craftsbury's Bulk Waste Day held this month. They recorded 67 vehicles, 4.46 tons of garbage, 230 tires, and a large pile of metal. Craftsbury tracks their numbers for use in future grant applications. The Committee agreed that it would be advisable to have the Transfer Station cleared prior to Wolcott's Bulk Waste Day in order to get accurate figures. Penelope suggested that surrounding towns may wish to schedule their bulk waste collection on the same day. Craftsbury sends out a postcard to all residents notifying them of the event. Thought is being given to ways items may be repurposed, or recycled, rather than simply disposing of them on Bulk Waste Day. It was suggested the Committee contact Sarah Lillibridge, the LRSWMD outreach person, to discuss ideas and a possible grant application.

Textile Day: Michelle has a Zoom meeting scheduled with Nichole with Helpsy. Textile Day would require a non-profit organization to serve as a partner. The Committee determined that the fall would

be a good time for the event. It was suggested that advertising start a couple of months ahead of time to give folks sufficient time to prepare.

Transfer Station: Kurt reported that the Department of Corrections has not had workers available to assist the Transfer Station attendant. Without someone to supervise unloading, garbage has been thrown into the open roll off meant only for bulk items. Since there is no cover on that roll off, a bear or bears, have strewn trash all over the Transfer Station. Cleaning up the mess is quite difficult, and it is bad for the bears. Linda pointed out that according to our charter, it is illegal for garbage to be in an open container. There can be a post on Front Porch Forum to make people aware of the problem, and signs can be put up. Kurt advised that volunteers may be needed to monitor the unloading of trash to ensure garbage does not get thrown in the open roll off.

Solid Waste Complaints

Morey Hill Rd – update: The Selectboard had entered into an agreement with the landowner setting a payment plan for delinquent taxes, and allowing trash to be taken to the Transfer Station on a credit basis. The situation has gone from bad to worse. The landowner has applied to the State for assistance with delinquent taxes, but still owes several hundred dollars for trash taken to the Transfer Station. The matter will go back before the Selectboard.

Morey Hill Rd #2: This landowner has been contacted repeatedly regarding excessive trash, to no avail. The matter may now need to go to the State Health Officer.

East Hill Rd: Michelle reported that she spoke with the Vermont Assistant Vet who advised that a resident with more than 12 dogs is required to have a kennel license. The State statute has several requirements for how the dogs are to be treated and cared for. Kurt stated that the Animal Control Officer (ACO) has been to the residence many, many times. Kurt will connect Michelle and the ACO so they can share information.

State Referrals

North Wolcott Rd Illegal Junkyard: Kurt has been informed that the matter has been referred to the State's legal department for compliance. Although there is not a lot of detail, it is in the hands of the State.

Flat Iron Rd: There have not been any recent updates from the State regarding the excessive number of junk cars on the property.

Adjourn: Motion by Michelle to adjourn. Seconded by Rick. Voting: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein