

## **Wolcott Litter & Solid Waste Ordinance Committee Meeting August 12, 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, Linda Martin  
Absent: Barbara Conn, Fay Lauber, Andy Duff  
Scribe: Deb Klein

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

**Amendments to the Agenda:** None.

**Approve Minutes of June 30, 2022:** Motion by Kurt to approve the Minutes of June 30. Seconded by Rick. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

**Comments from the Community/Correspondence:** None.

### **New Business**

**Planning for Fall Green Up Day/Roads to focus on:** Fall Green Up day will be held Saturday, October 22. Michelle shared the document listing road sections covered for Green Up Day in May, and the volunteer assignments. Discussion included high-priority roads such as Gulf Road, and sections including the VT Rte 15 pullout by Town Hill. Michelle will check with the Girl Scouts to see if they wish to cover upper West Hill Road, Zack Woods, and upper Sand Hill Road. Michelle and Rick volunteered to cover the lower part of North Wolcott Road. Linda will contact Michelle if she notices areas that are in particular need of cleanup. Michelle can contact those who volunteered in May to see if they wish to participate this fall. Deb will oversee serving chili to volunteers that day at the gazebo/pavilion. Michelle will post the event on FPF as the date gets closer.

**Transfer Station update:** Kurt reported that the issue of garbage being thrown into the open bins appears to be resolved. The Transfer Station attendant has been without helpers who would typically direct customers on where to dump garbage. Signage has been added to the open bins to indicate that no garbage is to be dumped there. The attendant has been instructed to close the Transfer Station for the day if the garbage bins become full. It appears the Department of Corrections will again be able to provide workers on Saturdays and Sundays. The workers should be able to push the garbage down to make more room in the roll off.

The Selectboard is in the process of adjusting prices for tires. The cost to the Town for disposal of the tires has increased, making the change necessary. Another big cost for the Transfer Station is compost. The attendant has been advised to have only one compost bin open to customers at a time. The problem had been paying for pickup of two half-filled bins.

**Helpsy parameters and setting date for textile bulk waste day:** Michelle has been communicating with Nicole at Helpsy. There are two options: there can be a long-term bin placed at the Transfer Station, or

there could be a drive that would be for one or two days. Two bins require a space equivalent to a parking space. With the ongoing option, Helpsy can be notified when the bin is full and they will pick it up. A bin is approximately 5' wide x 5' in length x 6' tall and holds between 800 and 1,300 pounds. Helpsy keeps track of the weight. Payment is ten cents per pound. Proceeds can go to the Litter Committee. Helpsy will assist with marketing, social media, and a press release. Michelle shared a document with the many items that are accepted. Motion by Kurt to go forward with the long-term option offered by Helpsy. Seconded by John. Voting: All in favor.

Kurt will send a letter to the State of Vermont to amend our Transfer Station permit to include the textile bin. Michelle and Kurt will complete the application to be submitted to Helpsy.

**River Clean Up:** Andy and his volunteers met on August 7 for their river cleanup. Four teams of volunteers took different sections. Although difficult to pull out of the mud, 35 tires were recovered, along with other trash. The operation took much longer than expected. Teams accessed the river from the Mountain View Campground. Another section of the river remains to be cleaned. The tires and trash were taken to the Transfer Station. Andy's \$500 grant from the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District will be applied to the cost of disposal. Andy would like to make the river cleanup an annual event. The Litter Committee will try to get more volunteers involved next year. Members were encouraged to read Andy's letter to the editor in the August 11 edition of News & Citizen. There is also a photo.

#### **Solid Waste Complaints**

Kurt reported that the State Health Department has taken over the complaints on Morey Hill Road. Kurt will periodically check in with the Health Officer for updates. The North Wolcott Road and Flat Iron Road matters are also in the hands of the State.

Kurt and Michelle will attend the Law Enforcement & Dog Ordinance webinar. Afterwards, they can meet with the Animal Control Officer for discussion.

Michelle stated she is still interested in seeing Vermont adopt legislation for the recycling of mattresses. It was noted that mattresses made up a big portion of the items brought to the Transfer Station on Bulk Waste Day. Michelle said several states, including Rhode Island, California, and New York have such laws. Michelle referenced Bye Bye Mattress, a mattress recycling program that uses the materials to create other products. Michelle will get a copy of the law from another state for discussion. Linda suggested Rep. Dan Noyes be invited to the Litter Committee meeting when that is discussed.

The Litter Committee will have a table at the Community Barbeque event on August 26 to provide information to the public. Michelle will try to have available by that time information on the Helpsy textile program.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein