

## Wolcott Litter & Solid Waste Ordinance Committee Meeting December 29, 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, Linda Martin  
Absent: John Wheeler  
Scribe: Deb Klein

---

Michelle Cortes-Harkins called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**Amendments to the Agenda:** None.

**Approve Minutes of November 1, 2022:** Motion by Kurt to approve the Minutes of November 1. Seconded by Rick. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

**Comments from the Community/Correspondence:** Kurt reported that the Town of Wolcott received its first check in the amount of \$57.89 from Helpsy for donated textiles.

### **New Business**

**Helpsy Update:** Linda stated the checks from Helpsy are payable to the Town. The funds will be tracked separately so the amount of revenue received will be known. If there is a project the Litter Committee would like to have funded from the Helpsy revenue, the Committee can make that request to the Selectboard for approval. Any funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year, the end of June, will roll into the general fund unless the Litter Committee makes a request to the Selectboard that the money be kept separate for Litter Committee use in the future.

Kurt noted that the Helpsy bins have been extremely popular. On some weekends, the bins have filled and excess bags have been placed on the ground. Discussion involved possibly requesting a third bin from Helpsy since there is room for another. The consensus was to first verify the pickup schedule and then make a decision regarding an additional bin. Kurt said he hopes the Helpsy bins will attract folks from outside Wolcott who will also bring trash for which they have to pay. It was agreed to not to do any additional advertising of the bins until the pickup schedule is determined.

**Plans for 2023:** Michelle anticipates the Committee will organize Green Up Day in the spring, and again in the fall, and also hold a Bulk Waste Day. Andy Duff may wish to organize another Lamoille River clean-up day. In 2022 Andy was awarded a \$500 grant from the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD). The items pulled from the river and taken to the Transfer Station for disposal

amounted to about \$220. The Town sent the bill to Andy, who then submitted it to LRSWMD for payment. The grant may be applied for each year.

Michelle would like to see more revenue generating projects. Linda noted that in the past the Wolcott Transfer Station accepted batteries and other items. Due to mismanagement, the Selectboard voted to not allow such items to be brought to the Transfer Station. Linda noted that pellet bags are accepted for recycling at the Stowe facility, otherwise, the bags are probably thrown in the trash. Michelle will contact the LRSWMD outreach coordinator to discuss possible partnerships, and invite her to a future meeting.

Michelle will invite our local legislators to a meeting to discuss their sponsoring legislation for mattress recycling. Many other states have such a program. All parts of the old mattresses are recycled so that they do not end up in the landfill.

**Vehicle Donations:** There are several organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, that will pick up old vehicles at no charge. It may be worthwhile for the Committee to promote such services to the public. Perhaps Habitat for Humanity would participate in a Zoom presentation that would be open to the public.

### **Solid Waste Complaints**

Michelle and Rick reported a great deal of electronic waste on private property that can be seen from the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) in Wolcott. The owner of the property lives out of town. The Committee could contact the owner and ask that the waste be cleaned up, or ask for permission to enter the property to clean it up. It was noted that Helpsy money could be used for the cost of recycling, if needed. Linda noted that the State is still developing a policy for clean-up along the LVRT. Rick suggested that groups or individuals could volunteer to adopt a section of the trail and be responsible for keeping it clean.

Kurt noted there is still a dumpster on the Morey Hill property that is getting filled, but it is not going anywhere. Progress has been made on the East Hill property; there is a lot less junk. There has been no further word from the State regarding the status of the properties they are investigating on North Wolcott Road and Flat Iron Road. Those are areas where junk cars could be removed.

Michelle has received inquiries about the property along VT Rte 15 by School Hill Drive. It was confirmed that the property owners do not have a junkyard permit.

Linda has talked with a Wolcott resident who complained about three junk cars along North Wolcott Road.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was called to a close at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein