Wolcott Litter Committee Meeting
February 22, 2024

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, Kurt Klein, Rick Harkins, John Wheeler
Absent:	Barbara Conn
Scribe:	Deb Klein

Michelle Cortes-Harkins called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None.

Approve Minutes of June 29, 2023: Motion by Harkins to accept the Minutes of June 29. Seconded by Klein. Discussion: None. Voting: All in favor.

Comments from the Community/Correspondence: None.

New Business

Role of Litter Committee

Klein provided some history on the Junk Ordinance and the obstacles encountered in attempting to enforce the Ordinance. It is up to the Selectboard to appoint an enforcement officer who is authorized to issue citations and appear in court on behalf of the Town. If requested, the Lamoille County Sheriff's Office may send a Deputy to accompany the enforcement officer when issuing a citation, but otherwise has no involvement in enforcing local ordinances. It appears the State employs only one investigator for all junk issues within the State. The Town's experience has been that once a matter is turned over to the State for enforcement, nothing ever happens. Local legislators have not been able to help with this process.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Committee should focus on litter within the Town by organizing Green Up Day in May, and periodically putting Don't Trash Wolcott signs around Town. The Committee will also host a bulk waste day at the Transfer Station. Cortes-Harkins will put together a Mission Statement for members to review.

Mattress Recycling Program

Members remain interested in pursuing the possibility of Vermont's participation in a mattress recycling program like some other states, such as Rhode Island, do. Members believe this would be a good project, and recommend joining with other towns. Deb Klein volunteered to contact Matt Chapman, the Director of Vermont's Waste Management & Prevention Division, to see if his office would support such a program and what recommendations he may have on how best to proceed. Cortes-Harkins pointed out that an Advisory Board would need to be formed prior to participating in the Bye Bye Mattress program, for example.

Projects for 2024
Members discussed upcoming projects. Green Up Day will be Saturday, May 4 this year. Cortes-Harkins will order bags and posters from Kate Alberghini, the Executive Director of Green Up Vermont. Cortes-Harkins noted that Green Up Vermont is organizing the longest litter pick up team that will extend from Canada to Massachusetts along Rt 100, going for a Guinness Record.

Klein will order a few new signs with different graphics. Signs can be posted around town in advance of Green Up Day.

It is anticipated there will be a Bulk Waste Day again this summer.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Klein