

**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF PEMBROKE, NH  
November 1, 2022 at 6:30 PM**

**DRAFT**

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Present: Wendy Weisiger, Sally Hyland, Gerry Fleury, Selectman Rick Frederickson

Staff: David Jodoin, Town Administrator. Bob Fanny and VJ Ranfos, Pembroke Public Works.

**I. Call to Order:**

Chairman Wendy Weisiger called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

None

**III. New Business:**

Discussion of increased recycling costs and the future of recycling in Pembroke:

Brian Groshon, Casella, explained that 5 years ago, China stopped importation of mixed fiber and the commodities market was changed. Anything that was still accepted, had an acceptable contamination limit of .50% which was a change from 3%. Casella has been able to find more domestic markets for commodities and the value of commodities has started to rebound. As the economy slowed down, the demand lessened which brought the value of the commodity down significantly. While all this is happening in the market, the Town entered a new contract. The formula used to determine the price per ton for recyclables disposal was the ACR – \$77 + 30% share and the new contract is ACR - \$145 with no share percentage. In June, the ACR was \$97.00. Currently, the ACR is just under \$15.00. Casella feels they are close to the bottom and are expecting to see a level off and then, hopefully, the rebound.

Gerry Fleury stated the options seem to be the Town removes their recycling program or be prepared for the extra costs. Brian stated that from Casella's standpoint, what happened over the last few months has been significant, but they do anticipate a rebound.

Sally Hyland explained in 2008, there was another large drop that lasted about a year, and she would like to know how Casella handled it back then. Brian stated he understands the budget constraints some municipalities have and, in some instances, they have deferred some of the costs until the next budget year so they can be planned for.

Sally Hyland stated the latest data summary from the website points out that cost to the Town for recycling is about \$2,398 in the month of September. The increase does not make up the entire \$8,000 Casella bill.

Brian explained Casella has purchased assets that have rail capability, and he would not be surprised to see that kind of logistics channel come to NH in the not-too-distant future. They have a facility in Holyoke, Massachusetts that is set up for rail and it is going as far as Alabama. The surrounding states in New England have tight regulations as far as out of state tonnage. As the landfills in the area are coming offline, they need to find a new places for the tonnage to go. There are no new incinerators being built in the Northeast. There is a committee in NH comprised of various people from the public and private sector of solid waste as well a policy makers to help develop a new solid waste plan for the state. All the recycling generated in NH has to be sent outside of NH.

Wendy Weisiger asked if Dalton doesn't come to fruition, will there be a point where Casella has to put towns on a quota. Brian answered no, they have committed to managing the material the town generates. Around contract renewal time, the conversation may change to what are the costs associated with removal of the town's material. For example, labor costs, what it takes to get a truck/load further away to dump, how does that affect the bottom line, and what does that do to the town's discussions.

Wendy Weisiger asked if Casella will change what their acceptable recyclables are in the next year. Brian answered they do not foresee any changes.

Wendy Weisiger asked if there are communities that have contracts with Casella and also an organization like NRA. Brian answered there are. They work closely with NRA and they utilize them for some of their contracts with municipalities. Smaller, more northern municipalities use NRA more than the larger, more southern communities.

VJ Ranfos discussed the open top recycle dumpster at the transfer station. If there is any weather, that material gets damp and heavier. The town pays for that extra weight. Brian stated he may have a dumpster with a top for them and they can discuss a potential compactor.

Gerry Fleury made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectman that the Town stay the course with regards to the recycling program and absorb the costs in the 2023 budget. Sally Hyland seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Brian volunteered to come to the Budget Committee meeting to discuss the increases.

Sally Hyland asked if the ACR for November is known. Brian stated it will be around \$7.

#### **IV. Other Business:**

VJ Ranfos met with the Bethany Chase-Reynolds to discuss adding an Epilepsy Foundation textile and book bin at the transfer station. They currently use Planet Aid who picks up every week. The Epilepsy Foundation would give the Town \$.02 a pound for the books and \$60 a pound for textiles. Bethany also suggested using Epilepsy Foundation for curbside textile collection rather than continue the contract with Helpsy. She would combine the weight of the bins with the weight of curbside. With Helpsy they have yet to reach a ton. They are hovering around 1,800 pounds for the year, so they have yet to see a payout. She is scheduled to discuss this with the Selectman on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Wendy Weisiger shared there is an increase in the cost to recycle 1 lb. propane canisters by \$2. They no longer can be put in the metal dumpsters. The cost increase will need to be added to the transfer station fee schedule after the Selectman hold a public hearing.

Gerry Fleury Made a motion to amend the most recent fee schedule to include the 1 lb. propane canisters and it will be brought to the selectman. Rick Frederickson seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

2023 Solid Waste budget will be discussed with the Budget Committee on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **V. Adjourn:**

Gerry Fleury made a motion to adjourn at 8:14 PM. Wendy Weisiger seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

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Wendy Weisiger, Chairman

For more detailed information, the meetings are now taped and can be seen on [www.townhallstreams.com](http://www.townhallstreams.com) click on Pembroke NH and look for the day of the meeting under the month.