

## **Solid Waste Commission**

**April 22nd, 2024 at 7 pm**

**Senior Center - Purple Room**

### **Meeting Minutes**

1. **Call to Order:** SWC Chair Mike Rota called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.  
Present: Mike Rota, Robert Nejako, Dennis Cronin, Doug Blakeslee (Transfer Station Supervisor)  
Absent: None  
Others Present: Dean Hunniford (Director DPW), Kevin Cwikla (First Selectman)
2. **Public Comments:** No members of public present
3. **Approval of January 17th, 2024 Meeting Minutes:** Minutes unanimously approved.
4. **Correspondence**
  - A. Fuss & O'Neil Landfill Monitoring Report
5. **Solid Waste Supervisor Report:** No concerns to report. Recent resident feedback has positive on cleanliness of the transfer station area. Employee efforts being made to continuously clean up any spilled trash and clean up building interior. Vendor that removes tires has increased prices above what residents are charged per tire, may need to revisit tire fees when fee structure is next evaluated.
6. **Old Business**
  - A. **2025 Budget:** Finance Committee review on 3/2/24. Budget as requested has been incorporated into town proposed budget. Budgeted hand and eye wash station will be added as soon as possible.
  - B. **Signage changes:** New signs added at gate plus some One Way / Do Not Enter signs. Additional signage work will continue to be done as needed.
  - C. **Issuance of customer receipts:** Customer receipts are available but infrequently requested by residents. Register detailed entries not listing out in end of day totals, just summary. Will review register manual for additional end of day print options.
  - D. **Cashless payment options:** Ongoing investigation by town staff into options including service providers and transaction fees including how fees are charged and who would pay the fees.
  - E. **Identification of new SWC members:** Dennis Cronin welcomed as new member.
7. **New Business:**
  - A. **Current Landfill Monitoring Report** (including Landfill Groundwater Monitoring Status Update Form): Latest report in line with historical data. Additional information requested on wells within 500 ft of landfill which will be researched.
  - B. **Textile Recycling:** Discussing option of adding a textile recovery bin run by a third party company that would reduce municipal waste and increase recycling of textile materials. Commission believes idea is worth exploring further including what bin would look like, how often emptied, who monitors what is placed in it, and checking with other municipalities that have done this for their feedback. Potential benefits include reduced municipal solid waste tipping fees along with payment per ton of textiles.

C. **Food Scrap Recycling:** Discussion of CT Senate Bill 191 currently in committee that would require food scrap separation from trash by 2028. Implementing any food scrap recycling program would also reduce municipal waste cost. How to implement a program will require extensive review and consideration. Agreement for now to monitor this legislation status and continue to educate the commission members on options for food scrap recycling.

D. **Other New Business:**

1. Discussion held on a future swap area as another method to reduce municipal waste. Swap area would require additional employee effort and volunteer time to support. Agreed it is a worthy idea and will add to future topics to consider how to implement.
2. Discussion on converting brush that is dropped off into mulch for resident use. Currently brush is shredded and available for resident pickup. If brush is “double shredded” it would be more usable to residents. Could require turning away stumps and larger diameter brush. Could coordinate a day to allow residents to come with trucks and have loader available to fill beds with free mulch. Will evaluate if town can support this for early 2025 mulch distribution.

**8. Watch List of Action Items From Previous Meetings**

- A. Updated Transfer Station Permit

**9. Future Commission Topics**

- A. Contractor Waste Disposal  
B. Fee Schedule Review (Bulky Waste, tires)  
C. Swap Area

**10. Long Range Capital Planning Ideas**

- A. Building upgrades - new roof in TIP list with planning in process for 2024 replacement  
B. Electrical upgrades - work being planned with CWPM for compactor electric upgrades  
C. Bulky waste area changes (concrete pads under dumpsters, other)  
D. Running water / septic

**11. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mike Rota  
Solid Waste Commission