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Draft September 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes

To: Keith Squires, Stu Hurd, Rob Gaiotti, Rickey Harrington, John O'Keefe, Tom Shuey, Mark Lourie, Suzie dePeyster, Sandy Gaszek, Dave Kiernan, Nancy Bushika, Steve Bendix, Mike Charette

Cc: Jim Sullivan, Andrea Lenhardt, Linda Sciarappa, Michael Walker

From: Michael S. Batcher

Subject: **Draft September 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Date: October 23, 2018

Town Representatives: Keith Squires (Arlington), Stu Hurd (Bennington), Rob Gaiotti (Dorset), Tom Shuey (Pownal), Suzie dePeyster (Sandgate), Sandy Gaszek (Searsburg), Dave Kiernan (Shaftsbury), Steve Bendix (Sunderland), Mike Charette (Woodford)

Not in Attendance: John O'Keefe (Manchester), Rickey Harrington (Glastenbury), Mark Lourie (Rupert), Nancy Bushika (Stamford)

BCRC Staff: Michael S. Batcher

Location and Time: Arlington Town Hall – 4:00 to 6:00 PM

Public in Attendance: Michael Walker, Town Administrator, Pownal
Maryam Kamanger from Goodwill

Introductions: Keith called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

Approval of the Minutes of June 13, 2018: Stu Hurd moved and Steve Bendix seconded a motion to approve the minutes of June 13, 2018. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Election of Officers: The time had come to elect officers for the coming year according to the intergovernmental contract. Tom Shuey moved and Sandy Gaszek second a motion to keep the same slate as follows:

Chair: Keith Squires
Vice Chair: Mike Charrette
Treasurer: Stu Hurd
Secretary: Rob Gaiotti

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

2017 to 2018 BCRC Report: Michael briefly reviewed the report summarizing activities of BCRC under the contract with the Alliance for the contract period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 with emphasis on the final quarter. He had sent this report several weeks earlier. The Alliance held a household hazardous waste event in Searsburg and Stamford for those two towns and a large event at the Dorset School for all 13 towns. For calendar year 2018 we will have had over 500 households participate in the events. The Alliance has also continued outreach to schools and businesses.

BCSWA 2018 to 2019 Budget: Michael reviewed the proposed budget. The current year budget has a total of \$169,180.00, reflected in the recently approved contract with BCRC. For next year, the total has increased to \$173,980.00, primarily reflecting the need to update the SWIP. Stu Hurd moved to adopt the budget and Steve Bendix seconded. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Encouraging Reductions in Packaging/Sharing Resources/Other Issues: Michael initiated a fairly wide-ranging discussion on enhanced producer responsibility (EPR), charging for recyclables as now allowed in Vermont, ordinances to ban plastic straws or plastic bags and related issues. The discussion is summarized below:

Enhanced Producer Responsibility: Vermont currently has laws and plans requiring manufacturers to pay for the costs of proper disposal of computers and electronics, fluorescent bulbs, batteries and paint. The Vermont Solid Waste District Managers have been focusing on advocating for legislation to require the same for household hazardous waste and packaging. This might increase the cost for consumers, but would reduce or eliminate the costs to taxpayers for disposal. The group had concerns about increasing charges to consumers and of driving businesses from Vermont. They felt that Vermont was too small for such programs to be successful and thought a federal program would be more effective. In general, they agreed to support such legislation after having an opportunity to study it.

Banning Plastics: Stu Hurd said his select board was investigating such a law, but he was concerned that it would not be enforceable. The group felt that the state legislature should initiate such bans as towns could not make such bans work at their level.

Charging for Recyclables: Pownal and Shaftsbury will not be charging for recyclables. Shaftsbury intends to increase the per bag fee for trash. Searsburg is debating closing their transfer station. For the Bennington, Sunderland and Dorset stations operated by Casella, the contracts with the various towns would need to be renegotiated. As of this time, there was no interest in charging for recyclables.

PAYT Ordinance Updates: Michael handed out a sheet of what he knew to date of hauler registration. Stu Hurd added some information and Michael will resend this. He will also notify VT ANR of any haulers serving the BCSWA area and not registered with ANR.

Public Comment: Maryam Kamangar of Goodwill talked about their recycling program for clothing. Some of the clothing that is donated can be resold, but much is recycled or sent overseas. T-shirts and towels can be converted into rags that can be used for cleaning for many homes and businesses. Goodwill can make and sell these for much less than commercial businesses. Maryam had sent some materials to Michael and he will get the word out on this on our web site and next newsletter.

Next Meeting and Adjournment: The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, most likely at the Arlington Town Hall. Stu Hurd moved and Sandy Gaszek seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 PM.