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Draft January 16, 2019 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 January 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Date: February 4, 2019

Town Representatives: Keith Squires (Arlington), Rob Gaiotti (Dorset), Janet Hurley (Manchester), Tom Shuey (Pownal), Mark Lourie (Rupert), Suzie dePeyster (Sandgate), Sandy Gaszek (Searsburg), Dave Kiernan (Shaftsbury), Nancy Bushika (Stamford), Steve Bendix (Sunderland), Mike Charette (Woodford)

Total of 11 towns and 17 votes

Not in Attendance: Stu Hurd (Bennington), John O'Keefe (Manchester), Rickey Harrington (Glastenbury),

BCRC Staff: Michael S. Batcher

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

Public in Attendance:

Elizabeth Schumacher, Bennington, VT (Climate Advocates of Bennington)
Michael Findrock, Bennington, VT
Mike Weber, Pownal, VT
Barbara True-Weber, Pownal, VT
Darby Hyde, Bennington College, Bennington, VT
Judith Enck, Bennington College, Bennington, VT
Sarah Fordem, Bennington College, Bennington, VT
Sichccha Pradham, Bennington College, Bennington, VT
Travis Pettengill, Shaftsbury, VT
Michelle Alexander, Bennington, VT
Jim Therrien, Reporter, Bennington Banner and VT Digger

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

Approval of the Minutes of September 26, 2018, 2018: Dave Kiernan moved and Sandy Gaszek seconded a motion to approve the minutes of September 26, 2018. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Asphalt Shingles: Michael explained that he had learned more about the VT ANR requirements for asphalt shingles. The board had previously voted to partially fund TAM to create a recycling facility. Michael explained that we did not need to have a facility but needed to make containers available for depositing shingles for recycling, which could be done at sites in Willison, VT and elsewhere. That said, he recommended that the board move forward with a facility as making this service available to all in the BCSWA service area would be much easier than if each town had to develop a contract for recycling. This would have to be done as facilities are not shared across town boundaries. Dave Kiernan moved and Steve Bendix seconded a motion to fund TAM to create an asphalt shingle recycling facility provided that outside solid waste management entities would need to pay into the start-up costs and sign an agreement with BCSWA as specified in VT ANR guidance, and that TAM collect in Shaftsbury as well to provide better access to the northern part of the area. The motion carried unanimously.

BCSWA Outreach: Michael introduced Paula Kamperman who will serve as BCSWA Outreach Program Manager. Paula described her experience and has begun to meet with businesses, including the Bennington Chamber of Commerce.

Survey: Michael summarized the BCSWA survey effort from 2015 and that we are required to resurvey our population this year. He has been working with the VT Solid Waste District Managers on an alternative method. Last time, some, but not all towns, provided surveys at town meeting, and Michael created a SurveyMonkey survey and a link posted on Front Porch Forum. We received approximately 300 responses. UVM has a program by which they could survey the entire state using email lists they would purchase. This would provide a better sample and allow for all the districts, alliances, and groups to survey using the same method. The total cost would be under \$10,000 which would mean BCSWA would likely spend less than last time, given the staff costs to manage the survey. Suzie felt the entire effort was a waste of

time. Sandy was opposed to sending emails to people from purchased lists. After more negative feedback Keith Squires moved Dave Kiernan seconded a motion to survey as we had the first time and do as little as possible on this survey effort.

Household Hazardous Waste Legislation: Michael explained that, last year, the Alliance supported H560 which would create a program by which manufacturers would pay for the cost of disposal of household hazardous waste. He reviewed a memorandum he had sent the board explaining the proposed program. He asked for permission to contact Senator Campion to request that he sponsor legislation in the Vermont Senate to match what is being proposed in the House. After discussion, Dave Kiernan moved and Janet Hurley seconded a motion for Michael to request that Senator Campion sponsor such legislation. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Items: Michael asked if the board wanted to aid garden groups that might want assistance with composting. The board said if someone needs help, help them. He also asked that members post the upcoming household hazardous waste event on town websites. Janet and others agreed that residents tend to go to the town website before the BCSWA website.

Tom Shuey asked for \$100.00 to help pay for a table for Pownal Elementary to help the students collect food scraps. He has been working with the school and using materials from the transfer station to build one. Janet Hurley moved and Steve Bendix seconded a motion to do so and the Alliance board was happy to offer that donation.

Michael stated we will be selling compost bins again and would like to use a facility in Bennington and in Dorset. Rob agreed to offer the town shed near their town garage.

He reminded the board he had provided a piece for their town reports and hoped they would add that to their reports. Most agreed to do so.

He discussed the need for every town to have a location for disposal of leaf and yard debris. Since Rupert has no transfer station, they have no such site. He and Mark will discuss a solution to this so that the Alliance is in compliance.

Public Comment:

Several people (see the list of public attending above) spoke about the need to address single use plastics, such as plastic bags and straws. Judith Enck, the former Region 2 EPA administrator, who is teaching a course on this topic at Bennington College now, and several of her students explained the problems caused by these plastics entering waterways and oceans. These plastics are used for a brief period of time, often only once, and only a small percentage are returned for recycling. Plastics have been found in seafood that we ingest and chemicals within them can alter cell structure and function.

Elizabeth Schumacher with 350.org explained that they have been working with the Bennington Select Board on an ordinance to ban these plastics similar to what was adopted by Brattleboro.

The members who spoke asked that the other Alliance members consider adopting similar ordinances. The group has surveyed businesses in the area and found them receptive.

Janet Hurley explained that students from Manchester Elementary Middle School (MEMS) had approached the Manchester Select Board as well, but their pleas had been rejected. She suggested the groups combine forces and keep petitioning the Bennington and Manchester boards. Rob Gaiotti asked for more information on potential impacts to businesses which he felt would be helpful in making a decision. Davie Kiernan and others were concerned about enforcement. Barbara True-Weber had reviewed ordinances to determine how they were to be enforced.

Several Alliance board members stated that courts rarely supported the fines imposed leaving the towns with legal fees to pay but no actual enforcement. Judith Enck suggested that, even if the ordinance was not enforced, most businesses wanted to comply with the law, and it would set a standard that could foster voluntary compliance.

Mark Lourie suggested approaching the major retailers to try to reduce the use of plastics from the places that offered them the most. Several members of the Alliance board stated this should be done at the state level, which lead Michael to ask if he could approach the Bennington delegation to support such legislation. Suzie moved and Nancy seconded a motion to authorize Michael to do so and the motion carried unanimously.

One member of the public suggested that we burn plastic for energy. As of now that is prohibited by Vermont statutes.

PAYT Ordinance Updates: Both Nancy Bushika and Steve Bendix had more information on haulers registered in their towns that they provided to Michael.

Next Meeting and Adjournment: The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, most likely at the Arlington Town Hall. Janet moved and Steve seconded a motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned just before 6:00 PM.