



111 South Street, Suite 203, Bennington, VT 05201 (802) 442-0713 (802) 442-0439 fax

January 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

To: Keith Squires, Stu Hurd, Rob Gaiotti, Rickey Harrington, John O'Keefe, Tom Shuey, Mark Lourie, Suzie dePeyster, Chris Reynolds, Dave Kiernan, Nancy Bushika, Dixie Zens, Mike Charette

Cc: Jim Sullivan, Andrea Lenhardt, Leslie Parra

From: Michael S. Batcher and Paula Kamperman

Subject: **January 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Date: February 6, 2020

Town Representatives: Keith Squires (Arlington), Stu Hurd (Bennington), Rob Gaiotti (Dorset), Leslie Parra (Manchester), Tom Shuey (Pownal), Mark Lourie (Rupert), Suzie dePeyster (Sandgate), Nancy Bushika (Stamford), Mike Charette (Woodford)

Total of 9 towns and 21 votes

Not in Attendance: Rickey Harrington (Glastenbury), Chris Reynolds (Searsburg), Dave Kiernan (Shaftsbury), Dixie Zens (Sunderland)

BCRC Staff: Michael S. Batcher

Outreach Program Manager: Paula Kamperman

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

Public and Others in Attendance:

No members of the public attended

Introductions: Keith called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

Approval of the Minutes: Stu moved, and Mike seconded a motion to approve the minutes of August 7, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Outreach: Paula summarized her outreach efforts thus far and reported the following:

- Provided media support and outreach for HHW event in Dorset in September by recording paid 30-second ads for WEQX and WBTV radio stations along with filming PSAs for GNAT and CAT-TV. Additional support provided in print through a press release sent to local media outlets and postings on Facebook and Google. She worked the day of the event surveying and directing customers through the line.
- Reached out to 13 event organizers and visited 9 events during 2019 to observe and provide technical assistance to improve recycling rates and improve/introduce food scrap diversion. Targeted two of the largest event organizers to introduce/improve their food scrap diversion in the coming months to comply with the upcoming July 2020 food scrap ban.
- Continued outreach efforts to businesses throughout the 4th quarter providing technical assistance to a total 42 businesses during 2019. Additionally, surveyed several food pantries about their waste management practices and challenges they face.
- Met with teachers at Hiland Hall School in Bennington in September and returned the following month to present a Trash on the Lawn program to 35 students to help them understand how to better sort and recycle their waste. Students recorded the amount of trash that was originally destined for the landfilled and later properly diverted to various recycling streams.
- Wrote and distributed newsletters to schools in September and December providing useful links to programs and information about our technical and educational assistance.
- Following the recording of 9 short subject segments on various recycling topics in August for CAT-TV, filmed a two-part program about food scrap diversion and composting that was later re-posted on YouTube and Facebook.
- Participated in training and workshops and attended conference calls of both the Universal Recyclers Stakeholders Group and the VT Product Stewardship Council.
- Continued updating handouts (“Disposing of Used Motor Oil”, “Disposing of Prescription Drugs”, “Disposing of Electronic Waste”) and corresponding changes on the Alliance website.

Keith asked if we could put articles in the Banner and other local newspapers. There was discussion that the News Guide was going to start charging for subscriptions which might reduce readership.

Asphalt Shingles: Michael summarized the application he submitted for an asphalt shingle collection point at the Bennington Transfer Station. He had estimated the total cost a \$10,000 of which \$6,000 would come from VT ANR and the rest from the Alliance. Funds would go to a container and to a pad to hold the container. There was discussion as to whether we needed to provide for those depositing shingles to dump materials from above as they would likely not want to shovel out the shingles. We are awaiting word on our application.

Household Hazardous Waste Facility: Michael also applied for a grant to fund a permanent household hazardous waste facility. The facility would have to be open one day per week from May through October. The most likely place was the Bennington Transfer Station. The total cost would be \$119,400 with \$71,640 from VT ANR and \$47,480 from the Alliance. Funds would go to designing the facility, revising the facility certification, rehabilitating an existing building, purchasing storage containers and providing pads for those containers and any needed changes for traffic flow. We are awaiting word on the application. At 5:30 PM, Michael received an email stating the application was approved so there would be much to discuss at our next meeting.

Spring Household Hazardous Waste Event: the 2019 event did not go well as Clean Harbors was understaffed. Michael showed cost estimates comparing US Ecology, which we currently contract for our Dorset event and Clean Harbors. The estimates for the spring event were similar though US Ecology would have to charge for room and board for a five-hour event. Stu said he would talk to Joe Gay of Casella. Tom moved and Mark seconded that Michael and Stu should do what is necessary to provide for a smooth event this spring. The next event will be on Saturday, May 9, 2020.

Recycling Information: Paula discussed the need to provide better information for residents and at transfer stations on what can and can't be recycled. She has posters and other information that could readily be used. Tom Shuey said a major problem is that people don't read signs. Mike Charette liked the idea and there was discussion of putting a flyer in with the tax bills that the towns send out in July.

Compost Bins: The food scrap ban starts July 1st. We are looking to sell compost bins again but need sites from which to distribute them. Stu said to contact Renee Gordon to find out the CDC plans. Paula stated she was going to work with some retailers to see if we could get them to sell bins at a discount.

Next Meeting and Adjournment: The next meeting will be on Wednesday April 8, 2020 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, most likely at the Arlington Town Hall. Stu Hurd moved, and Mike seconded a motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned just before 6:00 PM.