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August 7, 2019 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, Steve Bendix, Mike Charette

Cc: Jim Sullivan, Andrea Lenhardt

From: Michael S. Batcher

Subject: **Draft August 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Date: September 24, 2019

Town Representatives: Keith Squires (Arlington), Stu Hurd (Bennington), Rob Gaiotti (Dorset), John O'Keefe (Manchester), Tom Shuey (Pownal), Suzie dePeyster (Sandgate), Chris Reynolds (Searsburg), Nancy Bushika (Stamford), Dixie Zens (Sunderland), Mike Charette (Woodford)

Total of 10 towns and 22 votes

Not in Attendance: Rickey Harrington (Glastenbury), Mark Lourie (Rupert), Dave Kiernan (Searsburg)

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:

Mat Granger

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

Approval of the Minutes: Stu moved and Nancy seconded a motion to approve the minutes of April 10, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Outreach: Paula summarized her outreach efforts thus far and reported that she had researched and made contact, where appropriate, to over 55 businesses and provided technical assistance to 11 establishments. She continued to make herself available for public presentations, including SolarFest (July 21, 2019), Sun & Fun Festival (August 24th), and recycling presentation to staff at Bennington Project Independence at the end of the month.

Paula is filming 8 short segments with CAT-TV about plastic film recycling, “wish cycling” (where people try to recycle items that are not acceptable), ropes, hoses, Christmas lights and other items that get tangled in the sorting process, food scrap ban, single-use plastic, aluminum, and other materials and has been regularly updating the BCSWA Facebook page and assisting in keeping the web page updated with Berkshire Direct.

2020 Food Scrap Ban: Michael and Paula reminded the board of the 2020 food scrap ban, which will mean all generators, including residents, will not be able to put food scraps in the trash after July 1, 2020. The legislature amended the law so that haulers are not required to offer organics collection to residents unless they live in multifamily units of four or more. Commercial businesses will still be required to divert.

School Support: Paula and Michael asked about providing financial or other support to schools that ask for recycling containers. The board was generally of the opinion that schools had more funds than towns, though John O’Keefe said solid waste was a town responsibility. Keith and Rob suggested we should approach the supervisory unions to promote recycling.

Fall HHW Event: Michael reminded the board of the September 14th event. The spring event went poorly due to a small CHES staff that made the line move very slowly. Some people waited two hours or more and were not happy. Southern Vermont Medical Center participated and collected pharmaceuticals, though only from a few cars and likely contributed to slowing the lines. The board felt we should consider ENPRO for the spring event.

Asphalt Shingles: With TAM being acquired by Casella, Michael said he did not know what was going to happen with the asphalt shingle recycling facility. He recommended that the board stay with the current agreement until we could see what would transpire. The board agreed.

Budget for 2020 to 2021: Michael reviewed the budget, explaining that his estimates had increased substantially from this current year. One reason was an increase in the BCRC indirect

rate from approximately 37% to 67%. This rate is established by AOT. Stu asked if we could get clarification on why that had changed. The second reason was the possibility that the Alliance would have to hold a third HHW event to serve Searsburg and Stamford. The proposed Materials Management Plan would require that household hazardous waste events be held such that residents of an area, such as the Alliance service area, have access to one event within 20 road miles their location. The current standard is 15 miles by radius. It is likely this will require the Alliance to hold a third event annually. Michael did an analysis and found that Searsburg and Stamford were largely beyond 20 miles. Given that event costs have increased substantially and would likely continue to do so, a third event would push our budget higher.

Public Comment: Mat Granger attended and participated in some of the above discussions.

Other Items: Chris Reynolds, who works at Maplebrook, noted that they had thousands of plastic containers that may or may not be recyclable. He also asked for help with solutions to collecting food scraps at the Searsburg Transfer Station. They collect very little, but pay TAM a high price for the service. Michael will look into that.

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