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Draft February 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

To: Cynthia Browning, Nick Zaiac, Stu Hurd, Rob Gaiotti, Rickey Harrington, John O'Keefe, Tom Shuey, Mark Lourie, Karen Dzialo, Chris Reynolds, Dave Kiernan, Nancy Bushika, Dixie Zens

Cc: Jim Sullivan, Andrea Lenhardt, Ryan Thurber

From: Michael S. Batcher and Paula Kamperman

Subject: **February 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Date: February 23, 2021

Town Representatives: Nick Zaiac (Arlington), Stu Hurd (Bennington), Rob Gaiotti (Dorset), John O'Keefe (Manchester), Tom Shuey (Pownal), Dave Kiernan (Shaftsbury), Dixie Zens (Sunderland), Nancy Bushika (Stamford)

Total of 8 towns and 21 votes

Not in Attendance: Rickey Harrington (Glastenbury), Mark Lourie (Rupert), Karen Dzialo (Sandgate), Chris Reynolds (Searsburg), Woodford representative

BCRC Staff: Michael S. Batcher

Outreach Program Manager: Paula Kamperman

Members of the Public: Steve Bendix, Bruce McDonald

Location and Time: Remote meeting via ZOOM – 4:00 to 5:30 PM

Introductions: Once we had enough members on the call, Dixie, as chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 4:01 PM.

Approval of the Minutes: Stu moved, and Tom seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2020.

Grant Application for Permanent HHW Facility: Michael described a VT ANR grant initiative to support infrastructure and advocated for applying for a permanent household hazardous waste facility at the Bennington Transfer Station. He modified the application from last year and had sent it around to the group for review, though some could not find it for the meeting. Several members expressed concerns about cost as well as how the Alliance would manage the staff for the facility. Michael felt we could find some people to contract part time as the facility would only be open 10 hours/week from May 1 to October 31. Dave mentioned Catamount Environmental in Wilmington as an option. It would greatly improve convenience for residents and businesses, and we would charge businesses. Nancy asked how other solid waste organizations ran their facilities. Michael thought all the existing facilities were operate by districts and none by Alliances. John O’Keefe felt we should apply and see if we can figure out the staffing issue. Dave moved and Stu seconded a motion to apply and that passed unanimously.

John O’Keefe described a possible composting facility at the town recreation park. The site is small, so it could only serve 20 or so households which may not be worth the effort. He is continuing to explore options as there is a need, especially absent curbside pickup of food scraps

Staff Reports: Paula summarized the annual report we had prepared and her activities in the past quarter on outreach to schools and businesses. She also talked about upcoming activities including webinars she is running with COVID restrictions still in place. She also mentioned that we are seeking a consultant to update the website, and anyone interested in helping review proposals can do so.

2021 HHW Events: The 2021 event in Bennington will be at Mt. Anthony Union Middle School on May 8th from 9 AM to 1 PM. The fall Dorset event is scheduled for September 11th at the Dorset School from 9 AM to 1 PM. Michael has been working with VT AOT to hold an event for Stamford and Searsburg at the AOT facility on Route 100 in Readsboro. That is scheduled for July 24, 2021 from 9 AM to 1 PM. He asked all to remind their residents they will need to wear masks and maintain social distancing.

Hauler Registration: Michael reminded everyone to register their haulers. Stu has had some problems with some haulers. John mentioned a hauler he had not heard of before. Dave asked about a company named Weber that had totes out in Shaftsbury. There are likely new ones, some of which may offer food scrap collection.

Public Comment: Bruce McDonald and Steve Bendix sat in on the meeting but offered no comments.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, most likely via Zoom. At that point, Stu moved, and Rob seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:15 PM.