



Bath Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Meeting of April 11, 2019  
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Susan Bauer, Lee Leiner, Aaron Park, Peter Owen, Paul Perkins, Lou Ricciardone,  
George Sprague, Brook Vail

Members Absent:

Guests: Two members of the public

Agenda:

- Review and approve minutes of previous meeting
- Inclusion of multi-family in curbside collection program as it relates to zoning
- PAYT bag pricing
- Recycling and Solid Waste Education
- Adjourn

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was offered and the vote was unanimous to accept.

Discussion began with the idea of varying curbside collection services by zone. The most obvious adjustment would be to eliminate curbside collection in the C1 zone with the goal to eliminate the possibility of piles of trash lining downtown streets. One idea was to offer curbside collection to only single-family dwellings in C1 but up to a yet-to-be determined dwelling size in all other zones of the City. Downtown merchants or their landlords would continue to handle their own waste and recycling service needs. George asked if there were any existing rules for Front St. There is nothing specific to Front St. however there are provisions in the City's ordinances related to nuisance situations generally, and to trash placement specifically.

The conversation then moved on to the topic of multi-family inclusion in curbside collection services. Susan asked if the limit on number of dwelling units should be set based on an acceptable size pile of bags. The issue of pile size is not insignificant as it relates to kids doing mischief, plows breaking into piles and making a mess, unsightliness, etc. Brook added that maybe it should involve the area taken up by those bags and recycling bins. Susan said she likes 8-units as the limit and that it would add to PAYT revenue to help offset the cost of the additional stops. Other committee members liked 6-units as that was the initial request and would result in a slightly smaller pile. A comment was made that there is not much storage for trash in multi-family dwellings.

Paul asked why we need to set a limit at all. General answer is that a Washington House sized building is too big, but a duplex is too small. A very large size building may require a dumpster which would require the City to perform a dumpster collection route – something that has never been required. Peter added that if revenue was shown going up, taxes would not be affected. But that any new services would require additional tax revenues.

Lou suggested an aggressive composting effort will get the smelly, wet waste out of trash bags making storage more easily tolerated. Peter asked about the "standard" number of units collected in other towns. Dan Beishlein has submitted materials to the committee summarizing many other towns' standard. The numbers vary widely. Brook suggested an incremental approach to add 3-units followed by an adjustment period. Then 4-units, etc. up to 6 or more units. Aaron offered that that would be too much change for the public to adapt to and suggested an all-at-once approach would be better received.

Peter once again brought up the idea of limiting the curbside collection to 4-units to coordinate with the banking industry definition of residential versus commercial.

Aaron said the goal was to prevent the placement of trash curbside in the downtown regardless of units, use, etc. and that perhaps the “downtown” needed to be defined for this purpose. He added that there are existing rules governing the placement of waste curbside and that he thought 4-units was a better limit than 6-units.

Peter reminded the committee that the bed & breakfast owners had written a letter to the City requesting to be included in the curbside program and so far, that topic had not really been addressed. Susan thought they should be included. Lee then asked if home-based businesses (lawyers, accountants, etc.) should be included as they were specifically excluded at present.

The discussion changed to the price of trash bags. Public guest John James asked how many fewer bags had been sold as a result of compost services being offered in Bath. Lee answered that there has been no significant change in bag sales so far.

Lee added that generally towns set prices for bags that are politically acceptable rather than trying to hit a revenue target or cover a known cost. No matter what new prices are set, if any, the bag prices will be considered a tax by the public. Peter asked if the slow, incremental approach to raising bag prices was more acceptable than large, infrequent changes. The committee also believed that any of the discussed changes was a good opportunity for an increase in education.

The question of multi-family dwellings added to the curbside collection program was tabled and the committee is not yet ready to make a recommendation to the council.

Lee will speak with Ben Averill about different services in different zones and with Pine Tree Waste about adding stops. He will draft a pricing proposal for bags and rules for downtown curbside trash.

Next meeting: **May 13, 2019, 4:00 PM in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor conference room, city hall.**