



Bath Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Meeting of May 13, 2019
Meeting Minutes

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

Members Absent: Lou Ricciardone,

Guests: One member of the public

Agenda:

- Review and approve minutes of previous meeting
- Inclusion of multi-family in curbside collection program as it relates to zoning
- 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 of the expansion of the curbside program to multi-family dwellings began with Paul summarizing his email of April 22:

As a new member of the solid waste committee, I realize I am just coming up to speed on the issues before the committee right now, so I may well be missing something. But from my understanding at the meetings, I am realizing that it is not clear to me why we would not want to extend PAYT to at least 11 units as suggested by Peter Flaherty. After reflecting on the issues and talking with Peter, I have outlined my thinking below:

Question: Extend PAYT to 11 units or to all residents?

Pros:

- **Message to citizens:** inclusive of 45% of town's residents – no potential for feeling of discrimination on basis of homeownership
- **Financial impact on city:**
 - **increase in revenue** from extra blue bags (at 6 units: revenue of \$163,000 from blue bags vs \$138,500 from tipping fees = approx. \$24,500 additional revenue). Potentially there would be thousands more in income from adding more units.
- **Extend life of the landfill**
- **Environmental benefit:** encourages recycling, which is ultimately good for the environment

Cons:

- **Too many blue bags on the sidewalks?** Would 11 units create significantly more bags? Could we require buildings with more than 6 units to have special barrels designated for blue bags which could be rolled out onto the sidewalk on pickup day?
- **Other cons?**

Peter Flaherty has said that Brunswick has no limits on the number of units served by its trash pickup program. If we have not already asked about their experience, perhaps that might provide useful information for our committee as we try to decide how many units to include in the PAYT program.

Peter Flaherty was present and was asked to comment on the discussion:

- To be collected some properties would require the truck to leave the City street which may present issues
- Properties the size of Washington House would not want to participate due to the complexity of the service needs
- A dumpster may be a convenient solution for properties with many units – he uses a dumpster at one property and totes at another and gets service from Pine Tree Waste and RC Rogers
- Some landlords may not want to participate due to other concerns

Other discussion items among the committee included:

- Removing the “life of the landfill” from the discussion of service expansion
- Logistics of dealing with piles of bags curbside
- Difficulty in drawing a line for the number of units to be included
- Lack of accurate figures of added costs from Pine Tree Waste
- Comparison to Brunswick service, noting Brunswick’s public consideration of eliminating collection of recycling materials due to poor market conditions and additional costs.
- Consideration that a pile of bags on collection day will be accompanied by a bunch of recycle bins
- Odors and animal issues from piles of bags especially during warm months

George made a motion:

To increase size of properties collected to 1- 6 units for trash, reducing the existing limit on bags set out per week per unit from 6 to 4, and including bed & breakfast establishments and properties with home occupations.

Discussion followed:

- Recycling tonnage may increase which at present will increase costs to the City
- Collect feedback after implementation and potentially make adjustments
- Include requirements for use of bins, covers, and/or totes to reduce litter, odor, and animal issues
- Challenge of enforcing the limit regardless of where it is set
- Limit of 6 units versus more or less

Lee presented a draft of rules that might apply to curbside set-out of trash and recycling materials in the downtown area. There is a question about the definition of “downtown” and whether any services would be offered in that area at all. The concern is piles of trash/recycling on Front Street especially. A map is needed to define the area. Lee will check with Pine Tree to see if they are currently collecting any materials downtown.

The motion was approved by the voting members of the committee unanimously.

Additional time was devoted to what might be next on the committee’s agenda:

- Composting
- Education program – Lindsey Goudreau will be invited to the next meeting
- All members were asked to bring their best ideas about composting to the next meeting and to email them to the other committee members in advance.

Next meeting: **June 10, 2019, 4:00 PM in the 2nd Floor conference room, city hall.**