

CITY OF DOVER

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Thursday, March 14, 2024**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members Present: Chairman Dave Dinzeo, Vice-Chair Kate Surman, Gary Gilmore, Doug Kemp, Lynn Peterson, Council Liaison Debra Hackett

Alternate Members Present: Deborah Clough, Tim Casey

Alternate Members Unexcused Absent: Chris Sleys

Staff Present: Mike Moore, Solid Waste Coordinator; Nancy Usbelger, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. Citizens Forum (5 min. max.)

None

3. Approval of Minutes from February 8, 2024

Motion: Gilmore made a motion to approve the minutes, Kemp seconded.

Vote: U/a

Surman shared that the committee was concerned about the way the bag and tag escalation is now being funded in a disproportional manner than the way it was intended.

4. Monthly Update

Moore went over the reports and will get back to everyone about the bag and tag sales at the next meeting.

5. Recycling Center & Operations Update

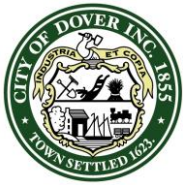
Moore stated he is going to hold off till the first week of April to have three employees working on Saturdays for the spring time cleanup. They will be working with him from April through Memorial Day. He had two guys that were certified with Class A CDL's and they are employees that can deal with residents on a daily basis. Unfortunately, one of them left and went to work for another town. The second employee went to another department to work as a pump station operator. He is going to be available on the weeks that he's not on call for the pump station. He spoke about the new roll off truck which is still in the budget at \$300,000.00. That's what's bringing his recycling budget up 30%-40%. If we were to get that truck, and could spend the money by July 1st everything as far as parts would need to be ordered so it could still be 18-24 months before we would actually see that truck. Other departments do use the truck as well, but we use it about 90% of the time.

Clough asked will other department be responsible for part of the budget for the truck?

Moore stated no they don't use it enough.

Dinzeo asked about any new update on the extension negotiations?

Moore explained he spoke with Pete Lachapelle and he was hoping to have something maybe the first week of April to possibly meet with John Storer as well. The City Manager asked to make sure



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there was a provision in the extension that there was a 2-year extension with a 3 year add on after that with an opportunity to sign on for another 8 years. It could turn into a 10-year contract.

6. New Business

A. Citywide Litter Cleanup Day April 27th – Deb Clough

Clough is working with the city to host our first ever road side litter clean up on April 27th for about 1 hour with six locations. Its going to be organized by each of the six wards.

Casey suggested to use a different spot for one of the wards?

Clough stated she feels we have litter problem, and wants to focus on the number of participants. She wants people to see how much litter there really is. She did share that there will be trophies for the top wards who have the most volunteers. There will be a picture taken and posted of how much trash was picked up as well as all the volunteers and awards. She also shared there is a waiver that needs to be signed hopefully before the trash pickup walk. They can be filled out at the Chamber, Library, City Clerk, and Community Services locations.

Motion: Casey recommended the Council sanction the joint Citywide Cleanup effort on April 27th conducted by City personnel and Don't trash Dover, Casey seconded.

Vote: U/a

Hackett did question Clough about how close this event is to Dover Main Street clean up and just wants to make sure residents are aware this is a separate event. She also inquired about the waiver and volunteers that may find needles during the event.

Clough shared that no one will be picking up needles if found. There will be an organization with qualified workings at each ward to handle and hazardous trash of that nature.

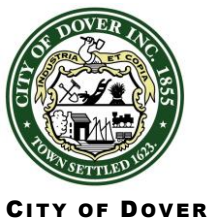
(Put in a resolution within the next 2 weeks. – Attorney and sponsor by Bob Carrier)

Dinzeo shared there is also a composting session at the Library on March 21st hosted by the Dover Plastic Reduction Group.

7. Old Business

A. Public Education Efforts – Deb Clough

Clough shared that the peek of the week that is put out by the Chamber is now bi-weekly and Dover Download will still be weekly.



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B. Bag and Tag Price Increase – Provide Recommendation on Proposed Fee Schedule

Dinzeo went over the documents and charts he created showing the trend over the past five years, bag sales and trash tonnages are trending down while curbside recycling tonnages have held steady. He went over what should be funded by the bag sales and how the original model hasn't been maintained.

Gilmore shared some of the budget tax cap issues and recycling activities being funded by Bag and Tag users such as staff time allocations and fall leaf collection.

Dinzeo went over again the timing of our action since we first learned about the increase for bags and tags in February. He talked about large step increases vs gradual annual CPI type increases. He also went over the \$798K fund balance and what the draw down might look like.

Moore stated we have a tax cap so doing some things helps to keep the taxes at the same rate.

Hackett confirmed with Moore that they want to have \$250K for the balance for all of solid waste.

Clough asked if the city was obligated to provide recycling at no cost covered by the general fund or the entire City or is there some way of leveling the playing field so that people who are supporting the pay as you throw program are not subsidizing the cost of recycling for those who are not? Can we charge for recycling separately?

Gilmore stated it would be hard to track which residents to charge.

Hackett shared even though it sounds like a good idea, residents might start to throw recycling in with their trash instead.

Kemp suggested maybe it would be a good idea to sit down with a small-town contractor to inquire about picking up recycling for the City?

Clough is very concerned about illicit dumping because of a raise in prices.

Motion: Casey made a motion that the Committee recommends that the City Council raise the price of the bags and tags using the Boston CPI rate, Kemp seconded.

Vote: U/a

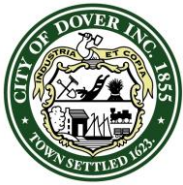
Clough shared that she feels like the decision has already been made without the committees suggestions and she feels very dishearten.

Dinzeo stated that the Community Services Director John Storer will be presenting his budget on March 20th, at the City Council workshop.

C. Future of Trash and Recycling Collection & Disposal – Provide Recommendation on Group Needed to Review, Analyze and Recommendations to the City Council

Dinzeo is looking for a recommendation of how to advise the council to proceed.

Gilmore stated as far as an Ad Hoc committee we would probably need about three members



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of the SWAC as well as other groups and engaging other citizens with different prospective would provide a broader view of the issues and broaden the demographic than that of just the committee members. He stated in terms of how many members, maybe nine to eleven members and they would have to meet more than just an hour a month. Its really to get a more diversified group in addition to the SWAC.

Clough asked is there a way to get more people involved without getting an additional group together?

Dinzeo stated if they are unable to recruit team members for an Ad Hoc committee the task may fall back to us.

Surman suggested maybe a group of landlords within the City and or someone from the fire or health department.

Dinzeo stated maybe stake holders from owners of a downtown business.

Gilmore stated we would need to solicit from the chamber or small landlords etc.

Hackett stated she would suggest that maybe reaching out to Chris Parker, Assistant City Manager. He would be a great person to get his perspective on team make up and an approach to recruiting them.

Motion: Gilmore made the motion that the committee recommends to establish an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of at least seven to eleven members to look at implementing the most optimum method based on the recommendations on the Oct 2023 Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Feasibility Study, Kemp seconded.

Vote: U/a

Dinzeo stated that Bill Stafford expressed an interest of being on the committee.

8. Set Future Meeting Dates

April 18, 2024 (3rd Thursday due to scheduling conflict)

9. Adjournment

Motion: Clough made the motion to adjourn at 7:45 PM., Casey seconded.

Vote: U/a