



CITY OF DOVER

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Thursday, September 20, 2018**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members Present: Chairman Gary Gilmore, Vice Chairman Dave Dinzeo, Deborah Clough, City Councilor Michelle Muffett-Lipinski

Members Absent: Doug Dede, Sean Greenlaw

Alternate Members Present:

Alternate Members Absent: Brian Shields

Staff Present: John Storer, Community Services Director, Mike Moore, Solid Waste Coordinator, Jaime Donovan, Health Inspector, Eric Hagman, Fire Chief, Jennifer Bretz, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes of June 21, 2018

Motion: Muffett-Lipinski made the motion to approve the minutes, Dinzeo seconded.

Vote: U/a

3. Citizens Forum

No one present

4. Monthly Update

A. Financials

Monthly financials were reviewed. The current fund balance was discussed.

5. Recycling Center

A. Eversource Free Freon Disposal 10/13/2018

Moore stated that Eversource and the City of Dover are partnering to offer a free residential drop off for Freon based appliances on October 13, 2018 at the recycling center. This is a program that Eversource is coordinating throughout New Hampshire. Moore saw the offer online and applied for it. Eversource will pay the city \$20.00 per item. They will be placing an ad in the local newspaper as well as any other advertisements. City staff and Eversource staff will be onsite. This is a great deal for the city.

B. Paper Shredding Info

Moore stated that Doug Dede had inquired about offering residents a free paper shredding day. Staff has been working on finding area businesses that have dates offering free shredding days. We'll be placing links on the city website to find those places.

6. Curbside Collection

A. Mandatory Trash Containers - Downtown Area

Moore stated that everyone is aware of the rodent issues in the community. The City Manager spoke with Community Services inquiring about placing trash containers in certain areas of the city where rodents have been an issue. (Map on board) The outlined area on the map is where the rodent issues have been greatest this summer. He will be meeting with the Health Officer, Jaime Donovan, and the Fire Chief, Eric Hagman, to streamline the areas more clearly.



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Moore stated that mandatory at this point is not the route to take. People do not like to hear the word mandatory. Something can only be mandatory if it's enforceable. Without a full time enforcement officer position in the city, trying to force 1,000 people to use trash cans every week is not going to work if it's a mandatory policy. If the city makes it mandatory and people begin to put their trash bags out without being in containers, what do we do? Do we have Pinard leave their trash bags at the curb for a week with the rodent issues? If we're not able to follow through than mandatory is not going to be successful. With that in mind, he would like to go the educational route first. He would like to develop a mailer to send out to the high risk areas, highly recommending, the use of 30 gallon plastic trash cans with locking lids. If they store their trash outside, and when they bring their trash to the curb have it left in those trash cans with the lids. He's spoken with Pinard Waste. The cans may slow them down a bit on their end but it's also not a problem.

Gilmore stated that he knows of a few neighborhoods where there have been rat infestations. He used to manage a couple of apartments units within the city. At that time he never had a problem but there is a problem now.

Donovan stated that every town/city in NH has rats. Dover probably had them years ago but not in the abundance that we do now. Just like all of the squirrels that have been popping up this year. He's taken calls from the beginning of the year. Places that he's gone to, he's seen them during the day. Rats are nocturnal. If you're seeing them during the day, there's a problem. There are over 45 streets in the city that have rats. He believes that if the information that Moore wants to send out is reviewed by residents, they would probably cut down on the amount of rodents since their food source would be gone.

Storer stated that he recently met with the baiting company whether they want to continue or expand on that. He believes patterns do change. He understands everyone wants to be proactive and do something. One of the reasons that Moore is hesitating going to full cans is they have not seen much activity of chewed garbage bags. They don't want to mandate that everyone run out and purchase a full sized trash can. July 1, 2020 the trash system is going to look a lot different. The current contract expires July 1, 2020 and the city's going to see a change in recycling, a change in solid waste when they go to toters. Do they mandate that everyone buys solid cans and 18-20 months later the city will be pushing toters on everybody? He believes that is the time to make a logical switch because it will have a huge impact on our budget. He believes that Moore's suggestion is a good one with public education with an understanding that there is going to be a change.

Discussion ensued on the toter program.

Dinzeo asked who the is the target audience for the educational mailers

Moore stated that he would be meeting with Storer and Donovan regarding the target areas.

Storer stated that they can come up with a list of comprehensive list of suggestions that stack the odds in your favor. If he left trash outside his house every day, he would probably be overrun with raccoons but he doesn't and he's not. There's probably an analogy about controlling the environment and the food sources.



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Dinzeo asked if the problem was where residents are storing their trash before putting it out for garbage day.

Moore stated there is an ordinance that states apartment owners will provide trash containers for the apartment residents to put their trash in before trash pickup. That is on a case by case basis.

Donovan stated the city does have property owner that do provide containers for their tenants but the property owner cannot monitor their renters 24 hours per day 7 days a week to ensure that they're using the cans. It's an education process that they need to get everyone on board with.

Dinzeo asked if backyard composting an attraction for the rats.

Storer stated that before they start discussing the composting, if there are no recommendations to bring forward regarding the previous discussion that will be reflected in a report to City Council. As they segue into a discussion about backyard composting and there is no recommendation to bring forward Council will be able to review that there was a discussion on both topics.

Muffett Lipinski stated that the only recommendation she has would be to research whether or not they could offer something at a lower cost to residents within the affected areas. This way they could request funds from the city to offset the cost of having the barrels for the affected areas. If an organization of citizens are really concerned about their area and want to make a difference they don't know how to do it. She loves the idea of giving them a list of suggestions and work with everyone in their area. Maybe they could make a recommendation of finding the lowest cost, most effective container and dropping it off at the resident's house if they're not able to pick it up on their own or have it available at the center.

Donovan stated that when discussing composting, the city does not have an ordinance pertaining to residential composting.

Moore stated in terms of the backyard composting the city cannot tell residents that they cannot compost in their backyard. He would like to promote a composting container. It is important to get the composting off the ground and into a secure container that rats cannot get into. He found one online with a metal handle that is three feet off of the ground. It's not taking composting away but it's not letting the rats get to it so easily. They could recommend, along with the trash cans, that if you are going to compost in the high impacted areas it should be in a container.

Donovan stated that the container is more of a benefit. Typically in order for composting to work, the pile on the ground is supposed to be turned periodically. The container is on a spinner which would allow people to turn the pile easily.

Storer stated that they could make an ordinance change. If anyone felt strong enough to mandate it, they could state that the container must be used. They could create a geographical area stating that if there was a belief that there was a need within the more densely populated areas they could mandate that they had to use some type of rodent proof container that kept everything up off of the ground. It



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wouldn't have to be a citywide thing. There's also the definition of what's compostable. Other communities will allow composting for everything but food sources. In the downtown dense areas it's mostly going to be food but they have the ability to define what is compostable.

Donovan stated that he strongly recommends that if the board makes a recommendation to City Council, they recommend hiring an enforcement officer. If they don't have an enforcement officer these items are not going to be enforceable.

Gilmore stated he's managed properties, he's been a carpenter for 30+ years and lived in the city for 40+ years. He doesn't know of any of his tenants that ever composted. Has anyone walked down Lincoln Street and seen a compost pile?

Donovan stated that he's seen quite a few compost piles. The reason there are so many is because people aren't composting just food scraps. They're composting grass clippings and other things into this pile. This equates into an actual home for them. Not only do they eat there, they live there.

Hagman stated that he was surprised at the outbreak. Every grouping of 3-4 homes where there was a problem, at least one was composting. Before this happened he would not have believed the amount of homes with composting in the downtown area.

Discussion ensued regarding composting.

Dinzeo stated that he supports Moore's self-education mailing.

Clough stated that she thinks the education program is wonderful and that it should be mailed to the targeted area.

Gilmore asked if Storer could provide the cost of an enforcement officer at next meeting.

Moore stated that he will meet with Donovan to generate the information for the mail piece as well as map out all of the target areas.

7. New Business

A. Downtown Litter Pickup - Deborah Clough

Clough stated that in past meeting discussion about more trash and recycling receptacles within the downtown area. She would like to discuss two specific locations. On her drive to the meeting she spotted three people sitting on the benches at the corner of Arch/Silver Street. There are three benches at the corner and there is no receptacle in that area. On the Community Trail there is no trash receptacle within the Urban Core area. She walks Fisher Street to Silver Street. The Silver Street stairs seem to be midway which may be a good spot for a receptacle. She picks up a lot of litter on community trail. She realizes that a vehicle may not be able to fit on the trail which may explain why there is not a receptacle in that area but there has to be some sort of solution.



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Moore stated that when the city first started revitalizing Silver Street, the first Scarboro line of trash container and light poles were placed at the Silver Street Central Avenue end of Silver Street. When they started placing new benches downtown, he realized that the trash containers needed to be replaced. He first tried to repair and replace parts of the containers that were damaged. The company has gone out of business. Parts are no longer available. The containers are eight years old. \$80,000 was placed in the budget for new trash cans. They've been ordered and will be arriving within three weeks. He will be replacing the trash receptacles in the downtown area. He has five extras. He expects to need a few more every year as they develop certain areas of Dover. The Arch Street/Silver Street corner is a spot where he's always wondered why there isn't one in place. That is an area that the plans on targeting with a double container. As far as the one on the Community Trail, that is a harder area to place a receptacle due to its location. Another problem with that area is the vandalism and illegal dumping that takes place. He believes that the \$3,000 set would be abused pretty quickly.

Clough stated she would be happy with a \$14.97 trash can.

Moore stated that he's trying to unify the containers within the City of Dover. He's seen containers disappear or set on fire. He's concerned that a cheap container wouldn't last very long. That area is out of sight which is why the vandalizing and illegal dumping happen.

B. "Bag the Butts" - Deborah Clough

Clough stated would like to share information on a program she recently heard of. It was developed by Breathe NH. They are providing kits to people that contain gloves, cups, hand sanitizers within a large zip lock bag. When you collect two full bags of cigarette butts, you contact the company and they send you a shipping label to mail them back. It's a great program but there has to be an easier way to collect the butts. The city has the Butt Butlers. The bags of butts go to the same company in New Jersey, Teracyling, for recycling. She's connected with Dover Youth to Youth and Strafford County Health Network to let them know about the program. She's wondering if it's possible to have a larger container for cigarette butts at the recycling center.

Moore stated that when Davis Rubbish Removal empties that Butt Butlers, the cigarette butts come back to him. He bags them up and mails them out.

Storer stated that he would like to know if Breathe NH could provide them with containers for the shipping pieces.

Moore stated that although it is a great program, they smell really bad. Some people are stuffing food in the Butt Butlers. If they were to have a container at the recycling center, he doesn't know how they would pack them all up. If there were some sort of containers that Breathe NH could provide for them to fill and mail out that would work out.

C. Municipal Composting - Deborah Clough

Clough stated that she recognizes that municipal composting is very expensive. She read that 30-40% of materials placed garbage bags is compostable.

Discussion ensued regarding curbside composting.



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8. Old Business

A. Recycling Bins Quality/New Vendor - Doug Dede

Dede not present to discuss

9. Next Meeting Date

December 20, 2018

10. Adjournment

Motion: Dinzeo made the motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m., Clough seconded.

Vote: U/a