

SELECT BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of February 7, 2022. The meeting took place via remote participation using Zoom. Members of the Board present were Matt Fee, Melissa Murphy and Dawn Holdgate. Kristie Ferrantella was absent and Jason Bridges joined the meeting after commencement as noted below.

Vice Chair Holdgate read a prepared statement as to how the meeting would be conducted via remote participation and the ground rules for any discussion and called roll for those present.

Vice Chair Holdgate called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

I. LONG-TERM SOLID WASTE PLANNING WORKSHOP

Town Manager C. Elizabeth Gibson introduced the workshop topic, noting that a summary of long-term solid planning efforts was most recently provided to the Board at its meeting on November 15, 2021. She said that a series of workshops is recommended over the next couple of years for the Board to obtain enough information to be able to provide direction on several "key questions". She said another workshop will be scheduled later this spring. She said that numerous initiatives are being explored which not only relate directly to the operation of the solid waste facility but other factors that impact the operations of the facility, as well as a review of the FY 2023 Solid Waste Enterprise Fund budget. She noted the Board's Strategic Plan Focus Area of Environmental Leadership and associated goal to "provide data-driven recommendations on island-wide solid waste management guided by principles of sustainability" is also driving other initiatives as to how the Island handles waste at the front end – such as the plastics ban and biodegradable packaging regulations. She introduced Finance Director Brian Turbitt to review the proposed FY 2023 Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (SWEF) budget. Mr. Turbitt reviewed the budget materials contained within the Board's agenda packet and noted various increases that relate directly to operational needs of the facility, including personnel, equipment and building repairs/maintenance or improvements.

Chair Bridges joined the meeting at 4:10 PM.

Mr. Turbitt continued reviewing proposed expense increases, as well as capital requests. He said that Town Administration is likely to recommend an operational override at the next Town Meeting in 2023 due to rising expenses that would be very difficult to cover with the General Fund budget. There were no specific budget questions.

Solid Waste Consultant George Aronson reviewed compost operations with respect to PFAS levels in the compost product and noted recent testing results following the removal of certain materials from the compost processing stream. He reviewed "waste to energy" technologies currently under review, with materials being sent to various facilities for testing. Mr. Aronson reviewed the landfill closure process and current status and various issues that need to be resolved/addressed before closure proceeds.

Recycling Coordinator Graeme Durovich reiterated that waste disposal costs are also significant drivers in the FY 2023 SWEF budget. She went on to review various ways to address the Board's Strategic Plan goal with respect to waste reduction. She asked for Board input as to any other areas the Board would like to see added, removed, or modified. Mr. Fee said he feels it is difficult to determine these areas, a "clear path" needs to be developed. Chair Bridges asked for some clarification on some of the areas shown on Slide 9 of the presentation specifically, what sorts of programs would be associated with these areas. Some discussion followed. Mr. Aronson explained that the less waste generated, the less cost to dispose of it and there are various ways to do that. Mr. Fee asked Mr. Aronson and Ms. Durovich for their thoughts as to

these programs. Ms. Durovich spoke on the need to gather as much data as possible. Discussion followed as to more effective use of the composter, including marketability of the end product and what would be needed to improve it, which involves much more involved and concentrated waste separation efforts. Mr. Aronson spoke on the need to change disposal behaviors and that public cooperation will be necessary. He acknowledged that this is a customarily difficult problem for communities. Chair Bridges said he would favor programs that require few people to implement. He said that it is difficult to prioritize the areas that Ms. Durovich identified without more information. Ms. Durovich asked about policy and regulation actions and if the Board is willing to consider those. Chair Bridges said he most likely would favor those. Mr. Fee said he thinks a specific goal(s) needs to be set in order to determine the actions that are necessary to accomplish those. Ms. Gibson commented that the Board members most likely need to have a better understanding of what would be required to accomplish these various initiatives, including costs before they can make policy decisions. Ms. Murphy agreed and said she supports the initiatives but does not have enough information to determine substance and impact of possible actions. Ms. Holdgate concurred and said that evaluation will need to examine viability and what it will take to implement. She said she wants to do the most impactful things. Ms. Durovich suggested developing a spreadsheet with various programs and what they might entail. Mr. Aronson suggested making that approach more of a "bundled" one with combinations of various approaches. He added that, again, community behavior change communications will be important. Discussion followed as to potential technologies and/or locations where waste is being transported. Mr. Fee asked what "we want to see in 5 years" with respect to technology and waste separation. He said he wants to understand where possible programs would lead. Discussion followed as to having "cleaner" separation, as a potential goal with associated programs. Mr. Fee commented that he thinks with a clear goal, the community will do what it takes to reach it. Ms. Durovich reviewed proposed upgrades to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) that will help assist with cleaner waste separation. She reviewed the details of a potential "colored bag pilot program" that would make it easier to sort waste. She asked the Board for some feedback on the specifics of the program. Ms. Gibson suggested that the Board first, be provided with more specific information as to what makes sense to separate out for a colored bag program, including numbers of "streams". Mr. Fee suggested starting with perhaps one or two colors. Some discussion followed on paper separation. Ms. Murphy said an aspiration could be 6 colored bags but that it be "eased into". She said for her, separation of compostable material from non-recyclable, non-compostable materials (NRNC) would be a place to start. Ms. Gibson again suggested that staff come back to the Board with specifics as to the exact materials being discussed and how they get separated. Mr. Aronson agreed. Ms. Durovich asked about including businesses in the pilot program. Ms. Gibson suggested that businesses be solicited to participate and possibly an associated stipend be explored. Ms. Durovich asked if summer or fall were preferable. Some discussion followed, with fall being generally preferable with sufficient advance notice. Ms. Durovich proceeded to review the location of the solid waste facility as it relates to coastal resiliency. Some discussion followed. Mr. Fee said the landfill should be relocated to higher ground within 50-100 years. He said he would like to see a "full accounting" of this site by qualified engineers. Ms. Durovich pointed out that the site is not a "dynamic flood risk" area. Mr. Fee commented on Madaket being in a "storm tide pathway". Mr. Aronson reviewed an analysis of whether or not the Town should purchase the composter and/or the transfer station, including current conditions and who is responsible for what between the Town and Waste Options and the key differences between owning the composter vs leasing it. Mr. Fee asked if there is a presumption then, that the composter would remain in use. Mr. Aronson said, yes, at this point and that with the measures as previously discussed, with cleaner waste streams, the product is much more useful and marketable. Ms. Durovich noted that the state's Solid Waste Master Plan will require certain levels of composting. Mr. Aronson reviewed potential timing issues and then proceeded to review the analysis specific to the transfer station, with the various differences between leasing and owning it. He concluded with a summary review of pros and cons of ownership of these facilities.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fee moved adjournment at 6:01 PM; seconded by Ms. Murphy. So voted by roll call vote: Chair Bridges – Yes; Mr. Fee - Yes; Ms. Murphy – Yes. Ms. Holdgate - Yes.

Approved the 16th day of February 2022.

SELECT BOARD
FEBRUARY 7, 2022 – 4:00 PM
REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS

List of documents used at the meeting:

- I. Presentation on Solid Waste Management