

SELECT BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of April 25, 2022. The meeting took place via remote participation using Zoom. Members of the Board present were Matt Fee, Melissa Murphy, Dawn Holdgate, Kristie Ferrantella and Jason Bridges.

Chair Bridges 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.

Chair Bridges 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 Town Administration has been working on long-term solid waste planning, as the Waste Services Agreement (WSA) with the landfill operator, Waste Options, is expiring in 2025; and, toward the Board's Strategic Plan Focus Area of Environmental Leadership and associated goal related to island-wide solid waste management. She reviewed the most recent solid waste workshop with the Board on February 7, 2022, noting that at least two issues at this point require Board direction, and that these were discussed at the prior workshop: whether the Town should own the Composter and/or the Transfer Station. She said today's workshop would focus on those issues. Ms. Gibson introduced the Town's Solid Waste Consultant George Aronson to review the presentation in the Board's agenda packet. Mr. Aronson reviewed the presentation. He noted that incineration is currently not an option, due to a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) moratorium on incineration. He provided an overview of the physical solid waste facility site and reviewed the compost facility and how it operates, as well as the transfer station where construction and demolition debris is processed. He noted that there is adjacent outdoor storage of "hard to handle waste" items, such as tires and appliances. Mr. Aronson reviewed a graph showing a breakdown of solid waste tonnage received through the solid waste facilities since FY 2012. He noted that the Town's recycling rates could be better, that Non-Recyclable Non-Compostable (NRNC) waste has increased as well as Mixed Excavation Waste (MEW). Chair Bridges asked about a drop-off of MEW volume in FY 16 – 17. Mr. Aronson explained, and some discussion followed as to the history of that issue. Mr. Aronson said that with the upcoming WSA expiration, there will be opportunities to modify fee structures that could bring in revenue to the Town. Mr. Fee said the Town should be collecting revenue for what it costs to dispose of these materials; or, let it go elsewhere so that the expense of disposal/processing is not with the Town. Mr. Aronson reviewed staff recommendations that, ultimately, the Town purchase both the Composter and the Transfer Station (and contract for operations) and reviewed the evaluation criteria used to make those recommendations. He noted that there are provisions in the WSA with respect to the potential for a Town purchase of these facilities.

Ms. Murphy left the meeting at 4:15 PM.

Mr. Aronson said the "driving" criteria for Town ownership is control of the facilities. Some discussion followed on what happens when the composter has gone down. He reviewed the responsibilities of the Town, should it own these facilities. He asked if the Board had any questions or reactions. Mr. Fee asked about "life cycle" of the two facilities and questioned whether future sea level rise is being considered. Mr. Aronson said that an assessment of condition will need to be done for both facilities and that most likely each has about a 10 to 20-year current life, not including potential technological advances, regular maintenance and capital improvements. Mr. Fee compared the facilities to bakery equipment, noting they are not readily sellable to others. Mr. Fee suggested plans be made to move the solid waste facility within

the next 20 years. Some discussion followed as to the value of the facilities. Mr. Aronson said there is value with the transfer station and maintaining it at the current site. Mr. Fee asked about the previously released "Request for Expressions of Interest" (RFEI) and any follow-up from that. Mr. Aronson spoke on continuing exploration of pyrolysis and other emerging ways to dispose of waste. Mr. Fee said if the Town could create electricity from plastic waste, it could be a great benefit. Mr. Aronson agreed and said that most likely there will be more than one way to dispose of the Island's waste. Mr. Fee said the better the quality of the waste going into the composter, the better a product will result and that ways to improve it should be explored. Ms. Gibson noted that, while it isn't the focus of today's workshop, there are several initiatives and programs, such as biodegradable packaging regulations, the Town's plastics ban and mechanical ways to improve the separation of NRNC materials out of what goes into the composter, underway. She noted that people's behaviors with respect to waste separation need to improve.

Ms. Ferrantella asked about the staff recommendation to purchase the facilities and what the overall driving reason was. Mr. Aronson said it mostly had to do with control of the facilities and less hampered ability to direct their use.

Bill Grieder complimented the presentation and questioned the storage of yard waste and asked about a drainage system for that material. Mr. Aronson explained there is a capital appropriation for that proposed at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Aronson reviewed next steps if the Board agrees with the staff recommendation. Mr. Fee said he is comfortable authorizing staff to take the steps necessary to prepare for a purchase, at this time. He said "we need to be early" on this and not wait to take these preparatory actions. Ms. Ferrantella agreed. Chair Bridges agreed as well.

Ms. Murphy returned to the meeting at 4:56 PM. Ms. Murphy agreed with the other Board members as did Ms. Holdgate. The Board indicated consensus to authorize staff to proceed as discussed.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Ferrantella moved adjournment at 5:02 PM; seconded by Ms. Holdgate. So voted by roll call vote: Chair Bridges – Yes; Mr. Fee - Yes; Ms. Murphy – Yes; Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Ms. Ferrantella – Yes.

Approved the 11th day of May 2022.

SELECT BOARD
APRIL 25, 2022 – 4:00 PM
REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS

List of documents used at the meeting:

- I. Presentation on Long-term Solid Waste Planning