

SELECT BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of November 15, 2021. The meeting took place via remote participation using Zoom. Members of the Board present were Jason Bridges, Matt Fee, Kristie Ferrantella and Melissa Murphy. Dawn Holdgate was absent.

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 4:02 PM.

I. LONG-TERM SOLID WASTE PLANNING WORKSHOP

Town Manager C. Elizabeth Gibson introduced the workshop topic, noting that a summary of long-term planning efforts was provided to the Board at its meeting on October 13, 2021 at which a comprehensive update was given regarding the Board's Strategic Plan, and that, at that meeting, it was noted that a more focused workshop was needed with the Board for several issues. 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 for early 2022. Solid Waste Consultant George Aronson provided a brief overview of the Town's solid waste facility and functions as contained in the presentation in the Board's meeting agenda packet. Mr. Aronson noted that compost produced through the composter facility is not currently available for public distribution due to concerns as to potential PFAS contaminants. He also reviewed various timeframes related to certain activities in accordance with Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permits and requirements. He reviewed a landfill mining program which ran from 2009 – 2019. He said one of the activities under an order from DEP relates to closure of the landfill itself which is delayed due to PFAS concerns and issues which have not been resolved. Recycling Coordinator Graeme Durovich noted the only material going into the landfill at this point is residuals from the composting process. She proceeded to review the Board's Strategic Plan Goal relating to solid waste and noted various approaches to address the goal. She reviewed the Commonwealth of Massachusetts draft Solid Waste Master Plan which could have an impact on the Town's solid waste management activities. She spoke on waste reduction programs, such as "pay-as-you-throw" and efforts to re-use, remove and/or reduce items from the waste stream. Ms. Durovich asked if the Board has thoughts about following state goals and/or developing local goals independent of the state. Ms. Ferrantella suggested that the Town should develop goals that are stricter than those of the state. Mr. Fee said he would need more information as to costs and options before he can make any decisions on this. He said that when items are charged for, they end up out in the moors. Ms. Durovich commented that illegal dumping, statistically, is not linked to pay-as-you-throw programs. She commented that items are still found in the moors, despite the lack of a disposal fee. Mr. Fee said he supports ways to change behavior but is cautious as to the results. Mr. Aronson said the waste stream items to be reduced are known, and an approach could be for each type of material, to determine where it can go other than to Nantucket's facility and/or processed locally or reduced locally. He said public outreach is needed as well. Mr. Aronson spoke on pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) programs in other communities. Chair Bridges said he thinks activities need to be connected to specific goals and that there should be options developed as to how to achieve the goals. He said waste reduction, overall, should be a goal; and, options presented as to how to get there. Some discussion followed. Ms. Durovich reviewed some other programs that could be designed for waste reduction. Ms. Murphy said she is not opposed to a PAYT program but because not everyone brings their waste to the landfill the same way, she would need to know more about how they would specifically work, as well as commercial waste vs residential waste. Ms. Durovich reviewed how commercial vs residential waste drop-off occurs now. She noted that there are already fees for some

commercial materials. Ms. Durovich pointed out that commercial haulers also use the landfill at no charge, for residential drop-off which is unusual. Mr. Aronson proceeded to review composter operations, including how the process works now, what the complications are, long-term viability and other potential options. Mr. Aronson said that the risks and costs associated with shipping the Island's solid waste off-island has not been seriously pursued by the staff at this point because these are so significant. He reviewed the Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) issued by the Town earlier this year, which yielded some information as to possible technology to process solid waste on-island. He noted that incineration is not currently permissible through DEP. He asked for the Board's input regarding the staff's position as to shipping waste off-island. Mr. Fee said that, again, he would want to know more as to the costs of these approaches. He asked if the Town could compost everything that is "safe" to compost, how much is left? Mr. Aronson estimated approximately 60%. Ms. Durovich reviewed the results of "waste sorts" performed throughout the year and said that approximately 30-40% of what goes through the composter is organic food waste. She said the remainder of the items that are not composted are either shipped off-island or put into a lined landfill cell. Mr. Aronson spoke on potential emerging technology that might be able to take some or all of these items. Ms. Murphy spoke on examining ways to maximize participation of the public. Some discussion followed as to whether or not, if the Town owns the composter, can a different entity operate it. Mr. Aronson said "yes" and there are various pros and cons. Discussion followed as to the difficulty of procuring staffing resources. Discussion proceeded as to the benefits and drawbacks to Town ownership of the various facilities on the site that it does not now own. Ms. Gibson suggested that at a future workshop, the staff provide more detailed information as to pros, cons, and cost scenarios to help with decision making. Board members agreed with this approach. Ms. Durovich proceeded to review the operation of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and potential improvements to the sorting system which would make sorting more efficient and more accurate. She reviewed the potential for a colored bag program and explained what this would entail. She reviewed how commercial haulers collect and deliver waste to the MRF and explained the challenges of sorting and differentiating between different waste categories with bags that look alike. She said using color bags could be a way to make this easier. She said the idea of a pilot program has been discussed internally. Ms. Gibson spoke on internal discussions about the program and that there didn't seem to be much of a downside. Ms. Murphy spoke in favor of a pilot program and asked about the costs of colored bags. She asked if this has been discussed with the haulers. Ms. Durovich said it has not yet been formally discussed with the haulers. She said she has talked with some of the drivers of trash vehicles who have expressed support. She said she will need to get more information as to the costs but that it is likely less expensive than the clear plastic bags. Some discussion followed. Chair Bridges spoke in favor of engaging the haulers. The Board was generally in favor of further exploration as to the colored bag pilot program. Mr. Aronson moved on to explain the management of other types solid waste that do not go through the composter or the MRF, including construction and demolition (C&D) debris, bulky materials and textiles. He discussed other potential ways of handling these waste streams, including pyrolysis, a salvage program, a more robust Take-it-Or-Leave-it (TIOLI) facility. Some discussion followed. Ms. Durovich commented that additional staffing is necessary for even the current TIOLI operations due to the volume of materials coming in. Mr. Fee spoke in favor of a salvage program and noted that would also require staffing and space. Ms. Murphy concurred.

Ms. Ferrantella left the meeting at 5:55 PM.

Mr. Aronson reviewed several issues regarding the solid waste facility site, overall, including storm water management, PFAS, soils and residuals and pending landfill closure requirements. He reviewed some measures that could be taken to address some of these issues, noting that these will come at significant cost. Mr. Fee spoke in favor of certain measures. He added that the landfill is in a storm tide pathway and

wonders if the landfill should be moved to “high ground”, such as out near the Airport. He questioned if the transfer station needs to be operated in any way by the Town at all, in the future. Ms. Durovich commented that using a private transfer station would involve higher costs to users. Some discussion followed on this. Mr. Fee asked if there is a way to treat compost to remove PFAS. Mr. Aronson commented that there may be processes that would do this, but they may result in a by-product. Chair Bridges asked if there are any comments from the public. No comments were presented. Chair Bridges said he feels this workshop was extremely helpful, the topics are complex but with more information, the Board can have further discussion at the next workshop. Ms. Murphy suggested that a timeline starting with 2025 when the Waste Options waste services agreement expires to now would be helpful. Ms. Gibson said that staff is working toward another workshop with additional information, for February 7, 2022. Mr. Aronson said this was helpful to gain understanding of where additional information is needed and thanked the Board for its input. Ms. Durovich agreed and offered a tour of landfill operations.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Murphy moved adjournment at 6:04 PM; seconded by Mr. Fee. So voted by roll call vote: Chair Bridges – Yes; Mr. Fee - Yes; Ms. Murphy – Yes.

Approved the 1st day of December 2021.

**SELECT BOARD
NOVEMBER 15, 2021 – 4:00 PM
REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS**

List of documents used at the meeting:

- I. Presentation on Solid Waste Management