

SELECT BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of January 11, 2024. The hybrid meeting took place in person at the Public Safety Facility Community Room at 4 Fairgrounds Road; and, via remote participation using Zoom Webinar. Members of the Board present were Thomas Dixon, Dr. Malcolm MacNab and Brooke Mohr. Dawn Holdgate and Matt Fee participated remotely.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Mohr called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. COMPREHENSIVE SOLID WASTE UPDATE

Vice Chair Brooke Mohr introduced the item and the members of the Town Manager's long-term solid waste work group as listed in the presentation in the Board's agenda packet. Town Manager C. Elizabeth Gibson reviewed recent activities of a long-term solid waste work group noting that a Request for Expressions of Interest was issued in 2021 to determine interest from solid waste operators in responding to a Request for Proposals to operate all or parts of the solid waste operation. That effort provided some helpful information in the development of the RFP that is now being finalized for issuance in the next several weeks. She said the work group has spent many hours researching, discussing and reviewing options for the Town's solid waste operation in preparation for expiration of the Waste Services Agreement with Waste Options in late 2025. She introduced the Town's solid waste consultant George Aronson of Commonwealth Resource Management to review a presentation the work group has prepared. Mr. Aronson introduced the presentation, noting that solid waste management is, today, an extremely complex operation with the promulgation of more and more environmental regulations and requirements over at least the last 30 years. Mr. Aronson proceeded to review the presentation. Posey Constable asked if recyclables are sold to benefit the Town. Mr. Aronson said that overall the solid waste operation is subsidized by the General Fund and that while there is a market for some recyclables, the arrangement under the current contract involves a credit to the Town from Waste Options. Campbell Sutton asked about the "cleanliness" of the recyclables, and what residents should be doing to have "clean" recyclables. Mr. Aronson said better separation and clean containers are key to "clean" loads. He acknowledged that it can be challenging and takes some effort but it is much better to have clean loads, which are also more economical. Margaret Devince asked about compostable plastic bags and the composter. Mr. Aronson explained that Nantucket's composter does not fully compost compostable bags, within its current process. Ms. Devince asked if there is a compostable bag out there that would actually be able to be composted. Mr. Aronson said that to his knowledge, the Town has not found one. Ms. Devince asked about grass clippings and associated chemicals. Mr. Aronson said that grass clippings do not go through the composter and are composted separately. He said that the compost created by leaf and yard waste is tested and while there are very low levels of certain "chemicals" which cannot be removed, they are below the standards required for certain governmental certifications for use. Ms. Devince thanked the Town for providing this presentation, saying that it is very informative. Ms. Constable asked about the temperature during the compost process. Mr. Aronson explained. Ms. Sutton asked about the ownership of the rolling stock used in the solid waste operation. Mr. Aronson said currently it is owned by Waste Options and the Town is reviewing the inventory. Ms. Constable asked if the employees are with Waste Options or are municipal. Mr. Aronson said currently the employees are Waste Options employees. Mr. Aronson emphasized the complexity of the operation and associated issues and said this can be "hard to appreciate". Dr. MacNab commented on the purchase of the composter and inquired as to the maintenance costs. Mr. Aronson responded. Ted Gilletti asked about the "human resources" that are necessary to handle this "project". Ms. Gibson said that the work group is comprised of staff, consultants and volunteers, some of whom have relevant backgrounds. Howard Matz, a member of the Town's Capital Program Committee and the work

group and explained his background with large scale operations, similar to and larger than the Nantucket solid waste operation, including financing, contract negotiations and risk management. Solid Waste Manager Chris Lowe reviewed his background. Mr. Lowe commented that Nantucket's resources are much more than he has ever seen with any other municipality. Recycling Coordinator Alice Kellogg spoke on her background, most recently with the Town's Finance Department where she handled procurement issues. Mr. Aronson reviewed his background and solid waste industry experience as well. Mary Longacre said she would like to see a "broader scope" of personal responsibility for citizen trash disposal and more options for disposal to reduce the amount of waste going to the solid waste facility. Town Counsel John Giorgio spoke on his background and stated that he has been practicing municipal law for 35 years, with a specialty in municipal contracts for landfills and solid waste facilities and typically is an annual speaker at municipal solid waste events. Coastal Resilience Coordinator Leah Hill spoke on the potential for sea level rise and climate change impacts on the site of the solid waste facility and that those are being monitored. There being no further questions, Ms. Mohr thanked Mr. Aronson and the work group for their hard work. She commented on the complexity of the solid waste operation and the many things that occur there to handle the Island's trash that many people are unaware of.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dixon moved adjournment at 7:28 PM; seconded by Dr. MacNab; by roll call vote: Vice Chair Mohr – Yes; Mr. Dixon – Yes; Mr. Fee – Yes; Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Dr. MacNab – Yes; so voted.

Approved the 17th day of January 2024.

**SELECT BOARD
JANUARY 11, 2024 – 6:00 PM
PSF COMMUNITY ROOM, 4 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM WEBINAR
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS**

List of documents used at the meeting:

- I. Solid Waste Management presentation