

Solid Waste Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

July 30, 2020

Board members present: Phil Griffin, Adam VonDette, and Audrey Bethel

Also present: Laura Buono, Luke Levesque

Luke fills us in on the overview of the past 4.5 months (!!) and the challenges that the Covid pandemic brought upon the transfer station.

There was large increase in the C& D in particular. Luke passes around print outs that show increases in the tonnage for Construction and demolition:

March 48.41, April 79.94, May 80.43

The May numbers are more similar to 2018 and 2017 numbers, however April was large jump in tonnage. We discuss summer folks coming up early, people who usually go to work – staying home, people buying more stuff online.

There were also those first few weeks where Luke opted not to recycle cardboard to minimize handling, which further contributed to large volume of MSW.

They were pulling a trailer every day and a 1/2 (which is very frequent!)

One Saturday Luke says they filled a 100 yard trailer of MSW in 3 hours.

Laura was part of the decision to close the transfer station for several Tuesdays to try to give the staff time to catch their breath. However, this had a lot of backlash = public emotions.

Also hard when folks were backed up waiting to drop off C& D , only to get to the front of the line and hear that it wasn't being accepted.

Naughton and Sons was also backed up and wasn't able to pick C&D for days sometimes.

Audrey and Charlotte and Adam had gone to tour Naughton and Sons back in March (right as pandemic was unfolding) and saw the scale of their operation.

Adam and Audrey toured another potential receiving facility for our C& D called ERRCO, in Epping. It is a much larger scale. We discuss the next steps there would be calling to get more numbers for what they would charge, and then we'd have to talk to Naughton & Sons about trucking it to Epping.. it might be good to have as a back up option at least when/if C& D tonnage spikes again.

Adam and Audrey also report out on their field trip to tour New London Transfer Station and meeting with the manager, John. They recycle glass still, and are the receiving site for NRRRA glass collection. They have a cardboard bailer like us, but also have a 2nd bailer that they use for separated out plastics #1& #2s as well as aluminum. They service roughly same size population—and have approx 100 cars go through an hour.

We discuss how it would be good to get a count on cars in Hillsboro. Laura will ask about a counting device.

Discuss the purchase of a second bailer? Luke says there could be room for it. HE would like to see us get a bigger bailer and use the bigger one for cardboard , and switch the one we have over for aluminum.

Laura will look at equipment capital reserve fund in regards to possible funding for a second bailer.

Phil asks about Swap Shop? It will remain closed for foreseeable future- he mentions doing more swap shop like things online.

We discuss how Hopkinton and New London transfer Station are still getting \$ for their separated plastics through the NRRRA, and this might be worth exploring more in future months.

Also of note: Luke reports townspeople seem to have finally been trained to throw plastics away in the MSW- we had our first non-contaminated load of the steel cans & metal go out earlier in the month.

Audrey and Adam will follow up with David Devito at Errco to get prices.

Tentatively we will meet Thursday August 20th at 8 am at the Center Club.