

Draft Minutes of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Tuesday, August 7, 2018  
General Services Conference Room – 311 N. State Street

Attending: Councilors: Keith Nyhan (Chair); Gail Matson; Steve Shurtleff  
Committee Members: Melanie Dorion; Matt Cashman; Mike Russel.  
Other: Dave Allen – Casella Rep; Katelyn Andrews – Concord Monitor

Absent: Committee Members: Rob Werner; Amanda Grady-Sexton; Mark Coen; Arthur Aznive

Staff: Director of General Services Chip Chesley; Scribe Donna Alexander; and General Services Administration Division Manager Adam Clark.

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 PM by Chair Keith Nyhan. With 6 members in attendance it was determined there was a quorum. There were no meeting minutes to approve because there was no quorum at the last SWAC meeting held 4/19/18.

First on the agenda: Item 1: Bagged Fall Leaf Collection Program:

A draft Report to Council was distributed to all in attendance. The report included a recommendation to transition to a fall bagged leaf collection program and two additional options that would retain the current bulk leaf collection program augmented with either two or three weeks of bagged leaf collection to be concurrently provided. This report also noted the recommendation had been presented to the Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee who found it to be fiscally prudent.

For illustrative purposes, Chip Chesley provided a map to the committee members of the previous fall collection showing the dates which street was serviced. Using last fall as an example and noting that production is variable each year. He pointed out on the map which streets were collected during the first two weeks of the program noting that in many instances these residents may not gain the full value of the program. He pointed out the area surrounding the high school as the only area that can be accurately predicted since it is performed each year the day Concord High School celebrates Veteran's Day. He also pointed out those streets that were not serviced last fall at all due to the onset of winter weather. He concluded the recommended bagged fall leaf collection program would treat all residents equally whereas the current bulk leaf collection has inherent inequalities of service level. Chip pointed out that the leaf collection generates numerous complaints each year across the City and the report includes a map noting the location each documented inquiry over the past five years. Keith Nyhan also pointed out that even with the \$70,000 additional cost for the program there really is a net savings service-wise freeing up crews to continue with their roadwork improvements and preparing for winter operations.

Steve Shurtleff motioned to accept the report to council in the order written "as is". This passed with unanimous approval.

Next on the agenda: Item 2: Transfer Station – Dump Bodies

Chip Chesley introduced Dave Allen from Casella, the City's contract operator for the Transfer Station. Dave Allen explained that dumping into the receiving pit at the TS is no longer allowed. Dave further explained that Casella has been operating the Concord Transfer Station for 4 years and that the process for self-dumping from dump body trucks has been determined to be an unsafe practice. He noted his employees would try to direct errant solid waste being discharged from a self-dumping truck by trying to redirect it inappropriately with a bucket loader, putting his employee at possible risk of harm. Further, he noted that both commercial and residential traffic must jointly use the same ramp and there have been too many close calls not just for the passerby but also for the loader operator. Casella tried to isolate the commercial from residential users but found that not possible due to the design of the transfer station. Having no solution to mitigate the ongoing potential safety issue, Casella stopped this unsafe activity at the Concord Transfer Station and provided an alternative site for this service at their Allenstown facility, a distance four miles away. For the inconvenience of traveling an additional four miles, Casella has discounted the typical fee of \$125/ton, which will be discounted to \$100/ton. He noted that Allenstown is not open on Saturdays as a condition of Casella's permit and in recognition of the neighborhood where the Allenstown facility is located, credit terms have also been offered. Dave noted there were some complaints initially but they have not persisted since the change has been in effect. Mike Russell pointed out that our eye should be on "safety". Self-dumping is allowed, not with a raised body truck. The Concord Transfer Station remains open on Saturday and allows this self-dumping activity. Mike further complimented Dave Allen on the very responsive staff at the Concord Transfer Station.

Questions were asked about isolating commercial and residential – Dave Allen responded that they'd tried that.

All members unanimously agreed that safety was the concern; that Allenstown is only 4 miles away; that accommodations were made; the members also complimented the staff at the Allenstown Transfer Station.

Keith motioned to adjourn at 5:10 pm. All agreed.