

1 **Solid Waste Committee Meeting**

2 **Monday February 12, 3.30 pm, Library Meeting Room**

3 **Members Present**

4 Rich Marcou (Chair), Kent Ruesswick (BOS rep), Steve Rasche, LeeAnn Mackey,
5 Emily Burr

6 **Members Absent**

7 Greg Heath (sick)

8 **Agenda**

9 1. **Call to order**

10 Rich Marcou called the meeting to order at 3.31pm.

11 2. **Previous Minutes of January 22, 2024**

12 Kent Ruesswick moved to approve those Minutes and LeeAnn Mackey
13 seconded. All members voted aye.

14 3. **Other Business**

15 Rich changed the order of the agenda. **It was noted that the next meeting**
16 **would be on March 11, in the Meeting House.**

17 Rich noted that Greg had sent an email about Composting info. Rich had
18 looked at the website and seen that there was a 25% match requirement.
19 LeeAnn asked if composting could be mixed with something else. There is
20 quite a bit of money available, Rich said. **The issue was tabled for when Greg**
21 **is able to attend.**

22 4. **Punch Card discussion**

23 Rich picked up from the previous meeting around the cash issue that
24 members raised. They had not really delved into it last time. Dave just turned
25 in \$1200 Rich said at the town office today. Emily said she had seen money
26 in the drawer and no one in the office. Dave keeps a ledger but there is a
27 delay from purchases there to money getting to the office. Rich hoped that if

28 there were punch cards it would free up Dave and staff to do other things for
29 the public.

30 Rich reported that as Chair he had done his homework and gone to see if the
31 sale of punch cards was a viable option in the other places that might sell
32 them.

33 Rachel in the Library was strongly in favor but said it would have to be run by
34 the Trustees. It would increase the traffic in the library, which was not a
35 problem as they hardly ever fill their parking lot. So that is a possibility. Rich
36 then went to the Canterbury Country Store and had an interesting
37 conversation. Jane Balshaw was in favor, as a way of increasing traffic in the
38 Store. However, Dave Balshaw was opposed to it, likening it to the removal of
39 the sale of newspapers, because they don't make any money for the Store. He
40 said it had been a nightmare with the newspapers, so they were discontinued.
41 He was not interested in an agent fee. Rich went back in and asked what kind
42 of fee might make it worthwhile. He said it was a good question. He would
43 have to think about it. Jane had said she thought it was a good idea but she
44 did not want to sell bags. The inventory would be too huge. Punch cards
45 would be ok, though.

46 Rich went today to the town office to see Mary Hauptmann and Ken Folsom.
47 They reported that the town office had considered punch cards a few
48 selectmen ago, but it had been shot down then. Rich had told them this
49 current committee was just 'spitballing' – the glitch is where to sell them. The
50 town office has weird hours, the Library is part-time and the Store apparently
51 not interested. Rich learned that David Bowles does have to reconcile items
52 for the town office. Ken Folsom said he wanted to think about it some more.
53 There had been discussion about having 2 kinds of punch cards – one for
54 green bags and one for everything else. it would not reconcile at the end of
55 the year as they have to do for December 31, but Ken thought that was not
56 sufficient of a problem to prevent the whole idea. They could not foresee any
57 pit falls. The other thing they did not discuss was about the cash and the
58 possibility of someone getting hurt at the at the Transfer Station.

59 Kent asked about selling them from a vending machine. Ken F had said they
60 had tried to find one of them years back but ran into a dead end then. They

61 wanted to put a vending machine at the Dump but it would not prevent cash
62 being at the Dump. LeeAnn thought it did not have to be at the Dump. Kent
63 wondered how much it would cost to make it unfeasible for the sellers.

64 Steve Rasche had the town report and saw that it had cost \$8000 to
65 purchase PAYT bags and the town sold \$58,000 worth. Rich said there was
66 one vendor that is selling bags right now and the town is being forced to buy
67 a quantity that they would not normally purchase. Lee Ann said there were
68 significant price differences in national companies.

69 Rich added there would be a further cost to print the cards. It would need to
70 be on decent thickness cardstock and serializing them would also add cost.
71 You can get special punches – a private vendor sells a punch that is on a
72 chain, and it is unique to you, unlikely to be duplicated.

73 Steve said he had talked to Jane at the Store off the cuff. There is a 30%
74 markup on everything they sell. That seems unreasonable for this scheme.
75 Emily said you could sell a \$25 card with \$24 service on it and that spare
76 dollar would help pay to seller – or a \$100 card would give \$5 to seller.

77 Rich said it is still preliminary with the Library. The Trustees will need to look
78 at it. Emily offered to mention this idea to them at a meeting soon and see
79 what they say. Rich does not think it is crucial that they end up with 2 cards.

80 Various ideas were discussed. Emily had looked at the current fee costs –
81 thinking about costs and done the homework for punch cards, which she left
82 with Rich. LeeAnn said hypothetically the town could get rid of green bags
83 but use punch cards to PAYT and let residents bring their stuff in whatever
84 bags they like and use their punch card. It would be better environmentally.
85 Let the cards cover everything. Steve said the only downside to that would be
86 having to slow things down waiting for the staff to punch your card – could
87 people be trusted to punch the cards themselves?

88 Rich noted that other towns have punch cards, stickers, resident permit
89 stickers, dump bags, all to offset tipping fees. This committee hopes that a
90 punch card would streamline things for the staff. He thought that even if the
91 cash was dealt with, bags needed to continue to be used. The punch card
92 could be used to pay for them. Emily reported that Ruth Heath had suggested

93 to Greg and Emily that if people only wanted or could only afford to have \$10
94 on a card, the vendor could punch out all the other holes and just leave \$10
95 worth on it.

96 Emily had to leave early to drive out of state ahead of the coming storm.

97 Lee Ann said she had read some studies about PAYT, for example by UNH
98 and learned it is profitable and a good way to handle garbage. She thought it
99 would be helpful to see what other towns around Canterbury did and then
100 put the data on a spreadsheet, whereby she saw Canterbury was near the
101 bottom compared to other towns and selling bags and charging fees on the
102 low side.

103 Steve asked would it work if people did not need to buy cards, and maybe
104 punch yourself if the attendant is not there? He asked if it could be tried,
105 having a year of honor system and attendant punching as an experiment?

106 LeeAnn was concerned to avoid a dual system of accounting – both for green
107 bags and punch cards. The logistics of making a scheme work should be
108 discussed at the next meeting.

109 Steve also had to leave.

110 5. Unfinished Business

111 The last piece of discussion was private and not noted for Minutes.

112 6. Adjournment

113 Kent moved to adjourn, and Lee Ann seconded. It was 4.33 pm.

114 Respectfully submitted,

115 Lois Scribner, secretary.

116