

1                                   **Solid Waste Committee Meeting**

2                                   **March 25, 2024, Meeting House**

3 Attendees: Emily Burr, Rich Marcou, Greg Heath, LeeAnn Mackey

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5 Absent: Lois Scribner (well deserved vacation in Bermuda)

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7 Meeting called to order at 3:30.

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9 Minutes from last meeting: There was one error noted in the minutes. The  
10 heading had the wrong date. Other than that, the minutes were approved.

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12 Discussion of the 'remove cash from the transfer station project':

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14 Greg had been tasked with contacting the town of Lee which we believed  
15 used a vending machine to distribute their pay as you throw bags. It turned  
16 out that Lee does not use vending machines.

17  
18 LeeAnn had looked into vending machines and printing stickers for bags. Her  
19 determination is that vending machines are not a practical solution. Buying a  
20 used machine would cost around three thousand dollars (if there were even  
21 any available, which right now there are not) and there would be ongoing  
22 maintenance issues. Buying a new machine would cost at least ten thousand  
23 dollars. If we rented a machine, we would have to enter into an agreement  
24 with the renting company to have them stock and maintain inventory could  
25 prove costly. All in all, it is not a promising path forward.

26  
27 LeeAnn also contacted Vista Print to look into creating stickers for trash bags  
28 to replace the pay as you throw bags that we currently use. There are two  
29 general options. One is to custom design a sticker (a die cut) for whatever  
30 shape and size and color you want. The other is to put our own logo on  
31 standard shapes and sizes which would be much cheaper. For a run of 50 the  
32 die cut would be 60 - 90 dollars. For the standard cut it would be 30 to 60  
33 dollars., Both of these options would be substantially more expensive than  
34 just purchasing the bags we now use. The price comes down substantially for  
35 bigger runs, and we would certainly be purchasing stickers in the thousands,

not runs of 50. We need to find out just how much cheaper they get with a run of at least several thousand.

She also contacted Minuteman Printers in Concord. They are somewhat of a middleman in that they get the supplies from someone else and then do the printing on them. The power outage and internet outage prevented LeeAnn from getting price details. She was hoping for a 4 inch by 1 inch sticker, but no one has those sizes. They do have a 3 inch by 3.8 inch.

Stephen got information from Mary in the select board office about the volumes of small and large bags sold. In 2022 it was 2058 large bag rolls, and 1703 small bag rolls 54.6 percent large bags. In 2023 it was 1949 large bag rolls, and 1616 small bag rolls 54.7 percent large bags. So, a very consistent breakdown in both years.

There followed a discussion about pricing. A single price per bag, i.e. one bag, one sticker. Or do we try to go one sticker for a small (15 gallon bag), two stickers for a large bag (30 gallon bag) and four stickers for extra-large bag (leaf bag, contractor bags). Or for simplicity 1,2,3 stickers for small, large, extra-large. There was consensus that 1,2,3 would work.

Rich said that it should be an objective to maintain the annual current fee income levels.

Rich then talked about a meeting with Ken Folsom about transfer station reporting requirements and about the bag sticker and punch card project. Ken was supportive and wished to be kept informed of our progress.

Greg asked what the next steps were.

Rich said we needed more details about the sticker costs, then get a more detailed proposal. Run it by Ken first for feedback, then go to the select board. He feels that getting library buy in won't be difficult in that Rachel has always had a strong willingness to help out. LeeAnn will get more details about bulk pricing and sticker style options.

72 The next scheduled meeting would ordinarily be April 8 but that is the eclipse  
73 date, and some members have travel plans to better view the eclipse. We  
74 decided to have the next meeting on Monday, April 15.

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76 The meeting was then adjourned.

77 Minutes taken by Steve Rasche (and posted by Lois Scribner, secretary).

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