

# First Selectman's Waste Management Committee (FSWMC)

Meeting Minutes, Feb 24, 2021

- 1. Call to Order and Attendance:** The meeting was called to order at 3:35 PM  
Committee Members Present- Cheryl Moss, Co-Chair; Mike Basham, Co-Chair; Scott Kalb, Secretary; Alison Ghiorse, RTM; Dan Ozizmir, RTM; Greg Addonizio, Aux Delices; Michael Wolpensinger, Greenwich Hospital; Tom Conelias, Hauler; James Santaguida, Hauler; Angelo Pucci, Hauler. Committee Members Absent- JR Maestro, Brunswick. Guests – Fred Camillo, First Selectman; Amy Siebert, Commissioner of Public Works; Julie DesChamps, Waste Free Greenwich; Sally Davies, GRAB.
- 2. FSWMC Recommendations:** The Committee deliberated on the FSWMC Recommendations voted on by the committee in its Feb 18, 2021 meeting and discussed the full list of eight recommendations with the First Selectman, item by item. (see the recommendations on second page of these minutes). The First Selectman was in agreement with all recommendations but regarding item 1, did express a preference for eliminating the sunset clause on tipping fees immediately, rather than extending it to June 30, 2021, the end of the fiscal year, as recommended by the committee. Co-chair Cheryl Moss suggested the committee should add a recommendation on education for the public to further reduce waste and save money for the town and residents. The First Selectman agreed this was a good idea and offered access to the First Selectman's Office expanded media network, which has broadened its reach since the pandemic, in an effort to assist with education efforts.
- 3. Permit Fees for direct drop-off at Holly Hill:** There was broad discussion on permit fees for accessing Holly Hill. The committee noted that direct drop-off of MSW at Holly Hill has hardly been affected since the \$25 permit fee was introduced on July 1, 2020 and has held steady at about 3,300 tons FY to date. The committee further commented that food scrapping has held steady at about one ton per week since the program was introduced, while direct drop-off of single stream recycling has declined by 28%. The committee Noted that further commented that food scrapping has held steady at about one ton per week since the program was introduced, while direct drop-off of single stream recycling has declined by 28%. The committee noted that FY to date, about 7,500 permits have been sold and that \$187,000 of revenues have been generated, covering about a third of direct drop-off costs on an annual basis, estimated at \$530,000.

The committee explained that it has deliberated on a number of options to replace the current \$25 permit fee, including raising the permit fee to \$50, \$75 or \$100, introducing a Unit Based Pricing solution for drop-off of MSW, and trying a tiered permit system of \$25 for recycling and \$50 for MSW direct drop. Dan Ozizmir suggested a new option such that residents with a hauler pay \$25 (as they already pay a tipping fee) while all other residents pay \$50. The committee has not reached consensus on a new permit fee solution and resolved to set up a subcommittee to make final recommendations. Cheryl Moss, Dan Ozizmir, Tom Conelias and Scott Kalb were appointed to the subcommittee.

- 4. Commissioner Siebert discussion:** The committee discussed direct drop off of bulky waste and the fact that there have been instances of abuse and bringing in heavy loads without fees. The committee noted there are existing regulations requiring residents to pay \$4.75 per 100lbs bulky waste if they bring it in to Holly Hill in in non-passenger vehicle, as defined on the town website. Commissioner Siebert noted that she is working on implementation and enforcement solutions for bulky waste drop-off at Holly Hill and would come back to the committee with recommendations.

Commissioner Siebert provided further information that single stream recycling tipping fees for the town would likely stay at \$65 per ton instead of \$85 per ton as originally projected. Commissioner Siebert mentioned this is a good outcome in the current environment and with MIRA closing in June 2022 and would saving the town an estimated \$300,000 in expenses. Commissioner Siebert noted there has been some confusion about unlicensed garbage trucks sighted in town and commented that as long as the trucks do not dump their trash in Greenwich, they do not need a license.

- 5. Next meeting:** The committee felt it important to present the recommendations to the First Selectman and to the Commissioner of the DPW as soon as possible, to get their input and suggestions. The next meeting was therefore set for Feb 24 at 3:30 PM with an invitation issued to the First Selectman and to the Commissioner to attend.
- 6. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:15PM. The next meeting of the full committee was set for 3:30PM on March 10.

Prepared by Scott Kalb, Secretary

## **FSWMC Recommendations: As Approved**

1. **Extend the Sunset Provision** of the Tipping Ordinance until the end of fiscal year 2022 (June 30, 2022), to assure fiscal certainty for the FY22 budget and operational certainty for Holly Hill and the DPW Waste Division.
2. **Extend Holly Hill Access permit sales at \$25** until June 30, 2022 to assure fiscal certainty for the FY22 budget and operational certainty for Holly Hill and the DPW Waste Division.
3. **Review** Holly Hill Access permit fee solutions with a view to offset direct drop-off (DDO) costs to the town while aligning fees with different types of DDO users. Options may include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Unit-based pricing for trash or bulky waste
  - b. Tiered pricing for permits (for example: \$25 for recycling, food scrapping and EPR; \$50 to add MSW; \$100 to add MSW and bulky waste (construction debris and yard waste))
  - c. Weighing vehicles carrying construction debris and charging per ton.
  - d. No change
4. **Request** the First Selectman to extend the FSWMC until September 15, 2021 to allow time for completion of a full report with detailed recommendations.
5. **Continue to Explore** unit-based volume and weight pricing mechanisms.
6. **Express the committee's** interest in developing economic solutions to separate organic waste from MSW and transport it efficiently to digestors, composters or animal feed processors, as a promising way to reduce MSW and lower costs for the town. Such solutions include:
  - a. expanding the current voluntary residential food scrap program,
  - b. looking into ways to provide local composting opportunities at Holly Hill and elsewhere in Greenwich,
  - c. researching and coordinating large-scale food scrap programs for businesses and non-profits (restaurants, Greenwich Hospital, grocery stores, private schools),
  - d. collaborating with neighboring municipalities to find locations for local composting and animal feed operations,
  - e. Investigating residential food scrap collection methods.
7. **Create** a Town website listing licensed haulers and their contact information. Haulers may include route and pricing information voluntarily.
8. **Evaluate** alternatives for improving SSR.

