

# Solid Waste Advisory Committee - Town of Granby - Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date: June 23, 2014**

**Minutes taken by Joe Furnia, Committee Chair**

Second meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was held on June 23, 2014. Meeting was called to order at 6:29PM. Four members of the committee were in attendance. Not in attendance were Elaine LeFleur, Will Lewis, and Jay Joyce.

Minutes of the committee's first meeting were unanimously approved.

Results of the committee's action steps from the June 9th meeting.

1. John will contact Arlene Miller and invite her speak at the next meeting. [Arlene accepted our invitation to meet with SWAC and spoke to the committee on June 23, 2014.](#)
2. Wilmot will contact Partyka. [No feedback yet.](#)
3. Wilmot will contact Waste Management to determine if they will be letting existing customers out of their contract now that the town has contracted with Allied. [Will was told by Waste Management that Granby customers are not bound by any contractual obligations for curbside pick-up and can cancel at any time. If a Granby customer prepaid for the year, Waste Management will refund a pro-rated amount. As for dumpsters, Waste Management classifies dumpsters as commercial accounts. Commercial account customers are bound by annual contracts.](#)
4. Joe will call John Libera, Chairman of the Board of Westover Metropolitan Development Corporation to introduce Jay Joyce and then email Jay with his phone number. [Joe called John and introduced Jay to John Libera.](#)
5. Joe will contact Cathy Leonard about putting a survey up on the website. [Surveys can be posted online and are managed by Cathy.](#)
6. Jay will contact John Libera to gather more information about possible sites for a new transfer station. [Jay spoke with John, who introduced Jay to Gordon Hutchins. Based upon Jay's conversation, WMDC is contacting the FAA \(owner of the property\) to determine if our land use requirements would be acceptable, and what restrictions would be imposed. WMDC is acquiring additional properties, and there are no abutters to the most likely parcels we might lease \(no land sales\). Not all parcels have had their utility connections and wells destroyed.](#)
7. Jay will contact Jessica at the Granby Senior Center concerning the inclusion of a Waste Survey in the Senior Center's Monthly mailing. [Jessica Skahill handles Senior Center monthly newsletter. We can insert survey into mailed monthly newsletter and/or emailed monthly newsletter. SWAC would have to provide insert by the 3rd Thursday of the month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter.](#)
8. [Mary said Republic Services currently has no plans to survey Granby customers.](#)

The focus of the entire meeting was the committee's discussion with Arlene Miller, who will be applying to Chris for a Technical Assistance Grant. Arlene's email address: [arlenem773@aol.com](mailto:arlenem773@aol.com)

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Arlene started her presentation by focusing on the types of facilities and how the state classifies them.

1. Transfer Station - Licensed facility to handle garbage/solid waste.
2. Waste Collection - Exempt classification that collects certain types of waste, but not solid waste/ trash (household garbage).
3. Recycling Center - Exempt classification for most classes of recyclables, excluding hazardous materials such as certain types of paints.

Arlene reiterated that if you are not collecting solid waste/trash, then there is no need of a Transfer Station, and Granby can go the exempt route. She then refocused our conversation about facilities on identifying the elements the Town of Granby needs to manage, and how are we going to do it.

Joe asked Arlene about resources, such as a glossary of terms and definitions, and weblinks that might assist SWAC. Arlene recommended the committee visit the Massachusetts DEP website, and said it contains lots of good information; adding that she did not know of other websites. For the remainder of the meeting our focus turned toward recycling and brush/leaf disposal.

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/>

Arlene said the first element to address is the availability of land. Do we have land that we either own or can buy? Mary said probably, and for the sake of our discussion, to assume so. Arlene then stated that in managing the collection of brush and leaves, we need to separate them physically. Leaves can mulched, while brush can chipped and composted. The issue in implementing this strategy is manpower.

Arlene then brought up the collection and management of bulky waste. Bulky waste includes: couches, chairs, refrigerators, scrap metal (white goods v ?), electronics, propane tanks, florescent light bulbs and mercury bearing waste. Different towns deal with this type of waste differently. For example, Longmeadow "filets mattresses", separating metal from the cushion and frame. Facilities also have Goodwill/Salvation Army drop-off boxes for textiles. Mary mentioned that a facility in Rhode Island has a book area collection point.

John then asked Mary about bulky waster pick-up under our contract with Republic Services. Mary replied that the schedule of items for pickup and cost of disposal is competitive. Bulky waste pick-up must be scheduled with Republic.

Arlene then asked Mary about other disposal services we had at the now closed transfer station. John mentioned a shed for paint and other chemicals. This led to a discussion about disposal of hazardous materials. Arlene stated we do not want to collect hazardous waste because the dispose of chemicals requires a Chemist on site (too expensive). We could collect and dispose of latex paint, a non-hazardous material because it is water-based, but the only cost effective (albeit expensive) approach is a multi-community hazardous waste disposal day. Latex paint could be drained from the can and thrown in the trash.

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There are two component costs to a hazardous waste day, (1)setup fee; and, (2)cost of material disposal. Vendors that do this have a minimum cost regardless of participation level. According to Arlene, the state contract price minimum is about \$4,800. Each town shares equally in the cost of the setup fee. Then each town is responsible for the cost of hazardous waste disposal. Joe asked how you count the number of participants per community? Prior to Hazardous Waste disposal event, townspeople are asked to sign-up (generally about 10% of sign-ups don't show and about 10% walk-in) and assigned a color. Cost per car is determined by the amount of hazardous waste. Ball park cost... \$25/up to 10 gallons and \$48/25 gallons (full car). Arlene commented the best strategy is to not have this stuff around. The less hazardous paint the better. Arlene was asked about who we might hold a hazardous waste event with. Joe mentioned Granby's proximity to other communities. Arlene said that would not be a problem, and mentioned Belchertown, Palmer, and even South Hadley and Hadley. She said it would be best to have an annual event. Disposal can get costly. Belchertown skipped a year, and will be surprised by the bill, given the increase in costs.

Joe then refocused the conversation and asked Arlene if there are published plans available of facilities. She said no, most facilities have expanded over the years due to need. We should visit multiple facilities to get ideas on how towns have addressed their specific needs. No town planned a facility from scratch (but we have an opportunity to do so). When looking at facilities, traffic flow is critical. Some facilities have good traffic flow, and others (South Hadley) poor traffic flow. Our now closed facility had good traffic flow.

Arlene was then asked about the length of time needed to upgrade a facility to a licensed facility (transfer station), assuming Granby start with a recycling/brush facility. Her response... If the site is CLEAN, then 12 months (making a clean site and design very important for ease of facility expansion from Recycling Center to Transfer Station when needed).

Mary then asked Arlene if it was quite possible the cost of our curbside pickup contract could be reduced because of the competitive arena? What possibility is there the contract price could go down? Arlene said that although she couldn't tell the future, it's possible because there is strong competition among the vendors. She mentioned aggressive bidding by vendors. She said to get the best price, you must always go out to bid. Don't let the incumbent vendor talk you into a no-bid contract.

Arlene also mentioned that a new food waste ban on large producers is coming, and that a small recycling program for food waste might make sense in the future.

There is one action to be taken before the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for July 15th at 7PM. Jay Joyce will attend the Westover Metropolitan Development Corporation meeting on July 14th and report to the committee at our July 15th meeting.

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Marty made the motion, John seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:02PM by unanimous vote.