

Solid Waste Advisory Committee - Town of Granby - Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: July 15, 2014

Minutes taken by Joe Furnia, Committee Chair

Third meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was held on July 15, 2014. Meeting was called to order at 7:09PM. Five members of the committee were in attendance, plus Arlene Miller. Not in attendance were Elaine LeFleur and Marty Conway.

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

Next is scheduled for August 5, 2014 at 7PM.

The focus of this meeting is the site location of a future transfer station. Jay Joyce had met with the Westover Metropolitan Development Corporation about the possibility of using one of their sites for the location of a transfer station. Relevant points include:

1. FAA has tentatively approved use of Lots K-1 and K-4 (229R East Street, Granby) for use as a transfer station by the Town of Granby (see attachment). FAA has several restrictions on land use, the primary one being that no new residential housing be built on FAA owned land. The Town of Granby would have to adhere to all restrictive covenants on the use of the land. The only abutter to these two lots is an Auto Body Shop.

2. FAA owns the land. WMDC manages the land. FAA has purchased land in Westover ARB runway flight path as part of their national noise abatement program. FAA is now in the process of purchasing 3 properties on East ST... 189, 193, and 195. Westover ARB flight line is a joint use facility between the FAA and the Air Force. In the future, FEDX and UPS plan to increase their flights' in and out of Westover.

3. WMDC would prefer to lease the land, not sell it. WMDC has not formally stated the term of the lease or the proposed dollar value of the lease. If Granby is interested in the land being reviewed, WMDC is willing to start negotiating those terms. It is true WMDC would prefer to lease the land but if Granby wishes to purchase the land, WMDC would also negotiate that for the FAA.

Question: Would the Town of Granby perform the capital improvements necessary to the either of the Lots without purchasing the property? Committee members felt not. It was suggested that it might be possible to lobby our Federal Legislatures to have a suitable FAA parcel of land granted to Granby in lieu of purchasing the land required. Granby may also apply for a Grant (State and/or Federal) to offset the cost of the creation/maintenance of the proposed Waste Collection Point.

4. WMDC is working with an unnamed Solar Developer to create a Solar Farm on some of their holdings but not on the lots being considered for Granby's use. WMDC has not stated the amount of acres to be used for the Solar Farm or the amount of power to be generated. The solar company needs 5 acres per 1 Megawatt of power generated. Nothing has moved forward to date.

5. Some of land resides in both the Town of Granby and the Town of Ludlow. The WMDC Board of Directors has members from towns/cities that have Government Land managed by WMDC. All members of WMDC Board of Directors are now aware of Granby's interest in the land and no negative

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statements have been raised by the Board concerning the creation of a Granby Solid Waste Collection Point.

6. Gordon Hutchins is the primary point of contact for WMDC. Per Jay, he has given the committee approval to go onto the land without prior notification. Gordon has given written permission (e-mail) for Granby's SWAC to evaluate/visit WMDC's managed land being considered for Granby's Solid Waste Collection Station. A copy of that e-mail has been distributed to all SWAC members which included a copy of the proposed Land Plot Plans on East St.

7. Condition of property... environmentally "clean", with water/sewage/power lines available. Road is dirt/gravel. Clean land is important, as it reduces the cost and amount of time necessary to implement a fully functioning transfer station.

In the ensuing discussion, the question was raised as the number of acres needed? The consensus was between 2-4 acres.

Will was asked about the availability of other property. He mentioned that the Town of Granby owns the gravel pit on Chicopee Street, which is a 35 acre parcel of land.

The conversation then focused on the near term and long term needs of the town. Given the current situation, a phased in approach was suggested. Joe reiterated that the committee has a responsibility to address both immediate needs, and develop a long term plan.

1. Establish a Brush/Grass disposal location for implementation beginning September 1. The proposed location is the gravel pit. Implement

2. Implement Bulky Waste disposal days. Republic would provide containers and haul containers away (per our contract).

3. Migrate to recyclables.

4. Implement solid waste disposal (transfer station) should the economics of curbside pickup warrant it.

Migration to a transfer station will be driven by the economics of waste disposal. Currently, curbside pickup is "cheap", and includes both waste disposal and recycling. If the economics don't change, then the implementation of a transfer station will be delayed. However, a plan must still be put in place in anticipation of increased costs in the future. This plan would provide a complete design of the facility.

There was a discussion about beginning the process of identifying costs. There are two types of costs: capital investment, and operational. Jay mentioned that Westborough invested \$1-2MM in their site. Westborough is a regional facility, and Granby costs should be significantly less. When asked about what the town would spend to develop a transfer station, Mary said that \$500,000 would probably be acceptable. Arlene and Joe believe it can be done for less. Arlene has some numbers that she will share with Jay.

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The Town of Granby has an immediate need for brush and grass disposal. This would only involve parcels of land that are currently available to the town, specifically the gravel pit on Chicopee Street or the Highway department location. Discussion focused on how to proceed and who to involve.

Departments identified include: Highway, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, DEP, and the Selectboard.

An action plan was formulated.

1. Arlene Miller will contact Dan Hall and give him a heads up about our interest in his assistance.
2. Will Lewis will contact both Dave Desrosiers and Dan Hall to schedule a time when they can visit each of the sites; and notify committee members.
3. Arlene Miller will obtain application forms and guidelines.

It was suggested that the brush facility be open all day Saturday (10AM - 6PM) and one or two other days of the week (2PM - 6PM). Access would require a Town Sticker and the entrance manned by a gatekeeper. Residents would be directed to the brush pile or the grass/leaf pile. These should be separated as the brush can be chipped, and the grass composted.

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM by unanimous vote.