

Waste Management Committee Meeting Notes
Feb 10, 2021
Council Chambers
10:00 a.m.

Present

Councillor, D Roberts, Chair
N. Haverkort, Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Co-ordinator
K. O'Handley, Eastern Region Solid Waste Compliance Officer
D. Halfpenny, Engineering & Planning Administrative Assistant

Guest

Jeff Dee, Eastern GFL

Absent

Councillor M. Farrell
Deputy Mayor A. Murray
Mayor L. Boucher
K. Proctor, P. Eng. Director of Public Works

Call to Order

The Chair, Councillor D. Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She welcomed guest, J. Dee, General Manager of Eastern GFL.

It was noted there were not enough members present to reach quorum.

Approval of Agenda

Unable to approve without quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Unable to approve without quorum.

Business Arising from Minutes

Waste Bag Limit

Councillor D. Roberts, Chair advised that the Waste Management Committee had invited J. Dee to the Waste Management meeting to get his opinion on whether a Waste Bag Limit should be added to the Town of Antigonish Waste By-Law.

J. Dee commented that his recommend would be that a bag limit not be introduced. He explained that with more STFX students living off campus this year it has decreased STFX ICI tonnage and therefore, STFX off campus students have led to an increase in residential tonnage. He stated that with the pandemic it is probably not the best year to get accurate data as students coming in need to isolate for two weeks. J. Dee explained that overall, it balances out with 95% of residents placing their garbage out on collection day and only a few hoarding their waste. He noted that his driver has identified locations that are problematic. He stated that it is more a compliance issue and that once landlords are made aware; they need to speak to their tenants and have the matter addressed and be made aware that a failure to comply will result in being fined.

K. O' Handley stated that he has been working with the Eastern GFL driver to gather data and target these problem locations for compliance violations and reported the matter to the Town's bylaw enforcement officers. He noted that a combination of education for tenants and awareness to landlords of their responsibility is ongoing.

K. O' Handley provided an example of where a tenant had placed 60 bags of unsorted material in a commercial dumpster, the waste was unsorted and the only way the person avoided charges of illegal dumping was that an employee at the location gave permission to them to place the waste in the dumpster unbeknownst to management. The tenant was required to remove and dispose of the material and it was noted that they had taken the material to Beech Hill Landfill and had to pay for its disposal.

Chair D. Roberts expressed concern that the hoarding of waste would lead to rodent problems.

J. Dee concurred that it is important to deal with tenants that are hoarding garbage. He noted that there was a problem with citizens dropping off unsorted garbage indicating they had missed their collection day; staff were instructed to charge the citizens a fee for unsorted waste of \$5 a bag and it is now almost a non-issue. He advised that initially there was hostility with citizens saying they pay for a service through their taxes. He explained to them that they paid to have curbside pick up of properly sorted waste and that failure to do so requires that Eastern GFL pay for disposal.

Discussion followed on the level of service to citizens.

J. Dee advised that some municipalities such as HRM have removed the weekly green cart pick up in favor of a biweekly pick up to cut costs.

Chair D. Roberts commented that the increased pick up for the 8 weeks in Summer is a service that citizens enjoy in Antigonish. She explained that with the dry hot summer last year it kept the smells down and she noted with global warming it is likely that the summers will continue to be warm.

J. Dee stated that one of the best received programs is the Bulky Waste Spring and Fall pick up. He explained that the volume of materials picked up proves the program is well used and prevents a lot of illegal dumping. He commented that the success of this program is in part due to the hard work of the Town of Antigonish bylaw enforcement officers S. Smith and J. Pellerin who he stated are phenomenal to work with; he noted that their efforts to inform landlords of rental properties, identify any issues and to communicate with Eastern GFL staff if there is a problem or concern goes a long way to make the program work smoothly.

Chair D. Roberts thanked J. Dee for his input.

J. Dee left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

New Committee Member

The Chair reported that D. Wilson, Deputy Clerk had placed the advertising for the vacancy and new positions on the Waste Committee. She noted that the date for submissions is approaching. She advised that there were a few people that had expressed interest verbally and that she will follow up with D. Wilson to check on the number of written submissions received and inform the committee of the level of interest.

Waste Bylaw

N. Haverkort circulated the revised copy of the Waste Bylaw. She acknowledged that the reformatting had taken longer than expected and that section 11 required a bit more work to line up the schedule of fines. She asked that committee members review the draft and make suggestions by February 17, 2021. The finalized draft will then be sent to Town staff for review before sending to legal for vetting.

D. Roberts, Chair advised she will speak to missing committee members and ask them to review and submit any suggestions by February 17 deadline. She stressed it is important to get the Solid Waste Bylaw updated and off the agenda.

Green Bins & Waste Bins

D. Roberts, Chair commented that it is important to keep a focus on obtaining supply of green bins for replacement of old carts and keeping costs to the \$90 if possible. She noted that she would also be looking to have some funds in the Waste budget to address litter can issues.

Education and Compliance Report

Compliance Officer Report - K. O' Handley circulated his report of activities undertaken within the Town of Antigonish since the January 13, 2021 Waste Management Meeting.

K. O' Handley reported that McDonald's Antigonish has received their Green Bins from Eastern GFL Commercial division. However, he noted they have not started using the green bins. He will follow up with them to ensure they are proper composting.

He advised that STFX is showing a marked improvement in compliance since sending out a mass email to state that black bags are not for use in the Town of Antigonish. He noted only eight black bags as opposed to the twenty to thirty bags identified in a previous load. He acknowledged that the names were given to StFX for follow up with on campus students. He advised that there was one black bag identified in the StFX load which he traced back to an off campus StFX student.

K. O'Handley noted he had followed up with Sobeys who had an issue with overflowing bins. It was determined they were on automatic Wednesday pick up and needed to request additional pick up when bins were identified as being filled. The issue has been resolved.

He stated that three locations had received educational material 166 Hawthorne, 70 Hawthorne, and 84 Arbor Drive.

There were five warning letters sent out for black bag use.

Next Meeting Date

Next Waste Meeting Wednesday, March 10th at 10 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.