

Waste Management Committee Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2021
Council Chambers
10:00 a.m.

Present

Councillor, D Roberts, Chair
Deputy Mayor Andrew Murray
Councillor Mary Farrell
N. Haverkort, Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Co-ordinator
K. O'Handley, Eastern Region Solid Waste Compliance Officer
K. Proctor, P. Eng. Director of Public Works
L. Crowley, Business Owner
A. Starr, Business Owner via phone
D. Campbell, StFX Representative
D. Halfpenny, Engineering & Planning Administrative Assistant

Guest: Rachel Lewis, Waste Resource Compliance Promotion Intern

Call to Order

The Chair, Councillor D. Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by A. Murray, Deputy Mayor and seconded by M. Farrell, Councillor to approve the July 14th, 2021 agenda. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by M. Farrell, Councillor and seconded by A. Murray, Deputy Mayor to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2021, meeting.

Councillor D. Roberts welcomed new committee members A. Starr and D. Campbell and guest R. Lewis. Introductions were made around the table.

Business Arising from Minutes

Waste Bylaw

K. Proctor, Director of Public Works reviewed additions to the Waste Bylaw. He noted that litter cans had not been previously apart of the Waste Bylaw.

K. Proctor reported that with the lodging homes being added to the Waste Bylaw it is important to determine the exact number of registered lodging houses for an accurate understanding of curbside pick. He explained that residential pick up has undergone a significant shift in the past 5 years with a decrease in approximately 100 curb stops. He noted that this is due to a combination of factors such as properties changing to mixed use buildings; larger older family homes being turned into 5 units, and demolition of older homes to make way for larger apartment buildings such as the Church Street development. He commented that pick up costs have significantly increased over the past five years and that it is unfair for a single family home with one or two people to pay increased charges when a lodging home generates much more waste. He stated it is important to have a rate that would be fair to represent the actual waste usage requirements. K. Proctor noted that a lodging home with 5 or more bedrooms would generate

additional waste as opposed to a senior couple living in their home.
(Note lodging homes are identified as having 5 bedrooms or more).

L. Crowley asked whether there was a specific number of bedrooms in the lodging home which would determine the need for the purchase of an addition green bin and additional waste pick up charge.

K. Proctor advised that the committee need to build the lodging house requirements into the Waste Bylaw to be approved by Council. He noted he would get a full list of registered lodging houses from the S. Scannell.

Discussion followed. D. Roberts called a special meeting for July 28 at 10 a.m. to further review the suggested changes to the Waste Bylaw. She acknowledged that with summer vacations some members may be unable to attend and encouraged all members available to attend the meeting. Committee members were encouraged to review the documents and submit any suggestions. **(Note this meeting date was later changed due to a scheduling conflict).**

Residential Waste Collection

K. Proctor noted that previously a Request for Proposals was issued to potential service providers asking them to bid on Town collection services for waste, recyclables, and organic pick up. He explained that now that services have been standardized a tender for the services is more in keeping with the needs of the Town. He advised that the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday schedule with alternating bi-weekly garbage and recycling pick up is what the citizens have come to expect. He noted that additionally, citizens enjoy special services such as Bulky Waste pick up twice a year and the 8 additional weeks of summer Green Bins pick (June to Sept). He commented that the ability to drop off leaf and yard waste up to ½ ton load by residents is also provided by the current service provider Eastern GFL as well as some other special services for seniors.

K. Proctor noted that the Town of Antigonish citizens enjoy a high level of waste services, but it does come at a cost, and it is important to keep that in mind as the 2021-2022 budget has been approved.

M. Farrell commented that while she is conscious of the costs to the individual homeowners, she would like to see the number of additional weeks for summer green bin pick extended to run from the May long week to September. She advised that she strongly encourages the move to extend the service as May can be a warmer month and the smells may attract more rodents, etc.

Deputy Mayor A. Murray agreed that extension of the Green Bin summer program should be reviewed to determine if additional weeks could be added.

Discussion followed on the cost to extend the services, amount of material being collected, methods to deal with eliminating smells from green bins, and whether a store front presence would be required for a contractor bidding on the RWC contract.

Household Hazardous Waste event has been replaced with a full-time facility at the County Beech Hill Landfill. The partnership with the County of Antigonish provides citizens with a location to safely dispose of harmful chemicals and products during regular business hours. Costs of this service has been difficult to get a base cost for as the pandemic delayed the launch of the new location.

K. Proctor left the meeting to attend to an HR matter 10:45 a.m..

Waste Resource Compliance Promotion Intern

R. Lewis, Waste Resource Compliance Promotion Intern provided a presentation on results to date on her audit of Town of Antigonish curbside pickup. She highlighted areas where there are sorting issues, noted that educational material had been left for residents and identified where follow up is required.

Bulky Waste

D. Roberts asked for the current data on the Spring Bulky Waste. D. Halfpenny will circulate via email to committee members. (Bulk- 33.54 ton, Metal-10.64).

Litter Clean Up Incentive

Chair D. Roberts identified that there are several non-profit groups that could be approached to do a Town Clean up. She explained that in the past the Fuel Fund had participated to receive the funding of \$400 . The funds would then provide much needed assistance for citizens in need of help for their heating costs during the winter.

N. Haverkort advised that due to the pandemic there is additional funding available for clean ups.

Discussion followed on groups that could be approached to do a cleanup, liability requirements, materials and organization of the event, committee participation, promotion of the event through social media, assistance of Eastern GFL, etc.

L. Crowley asked if a group could do the clean up and donate to a nonprofit.

N. Haverkort advised that this is an option, and that the cheque could be then made out to a nonprofit group to satisfy the requirements of the funding. She noted that L. Lewis as part of her summer work program will be tasked with organizing a cleanup.

L. Crowley stated that he would bring the cleanup to the attention of the Landlords association who could spread the word to tenants. He advised that the Landlords association is in the process of being an officially recognized organization.

D. Roberts advised that a date of August 7th could be set for the first Town Clean up provided a group or groups can be secured.

D. Roberts, Chair commented that should the Fuel Fund group decide not to participate that there are other groups that she could invite to apply for the funding. She noted that she would feel comfortable participating in the event by manning the sign-up table and handing out the supplies.

EPR

N. Haverkort explained that highlights of the EPR proposal is that the current government is prioritizing working together to create a strategy towards making end producers responsible for dealing with packaging waste, the burden would then be removed from municipalities to deal with this type of waste and cost for disposal would be placed on industry.

Discussion followed on the need for industry to decrease unnecessary packaging.

N. Haverkort will circulate update materials to Waste Committee members.

New Business

Green Bin RWC for Summer

Green Bins are being pick up weekly (June 14- September 20).

Green Bin Supply

The Town now has approximately 100 green bins in stock for homeowners requiring replacement of their bins. It was noted that the cost to the homeowner is \$90 tax included. The older Green Bins are into a replacement cycle and demand is increasing with six new green bins sold in July alone.

Education and Compliance Report

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

K. O' Handley reported that the STFX has been quiet with the students gone for the summer. He noted that additional efforts to educate both off campus and on campus students when they arrive at StFX is challenging.

D. Campbell advised that material can be sent out to the students to advise them of sorting requirements in the Town of Antigonish.

L. Crowley noted that landlords can circulate materials to their tenants. He identified that the free app is an excellent resource for his tenants.

N. Haverkort commented that educational resource materials are available to promote proper sorting and can be provided if needed.

K. O' Handley advised that getting black bags out of the system is step one. The second step is to decrease the contamination of STFX loads in the GFL Trucks. He noted that he had been working closely with Paul Chisholm at StFX and the GFL driver and has seen Improvements.

K. O' Handley note that he has been working closely with R. Lewis doing curbside waste audits and they will be continuing to follow up on those who have received education material to determine if improvements have been made.

Next Meeting Date

Next Waste Meeting Wednesday, September 15 at 10 a.m.

Motion of Adjourn

A motion was made and seconded that the Compliance Report be accepted. Motion Carried.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried,

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.