

**Waste Management Committee Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2020
Council Chambers
10:00 a.m.**

Present

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

Call to Order

The Chair, Councillor D. Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. She welcomed new Committee Member Councillor M. Farrell and expressed optimism for the New Year with a new committee and work to be completed.

Approval of Agenda

The Chair asked for any additions to the agenda. Three items were added:

1. Tender for Residential Waste Collection
2. Waste Bylaw
3. Litter Cans.

A motion was made by Councillor M. Farrell to accept the agenda with additions and was seconded by Deputy Mayor A. Murray. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor A. Murray and seconded by Councillor D. Roberts to accept the minute of March 2020 and notes of September 9, 2020. Motion Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes

1. **Waste Bag Limit** discussion was held on whether there should be an 8-10 bag limit added to the Waste Collection Bylaw as occurs in other neighbouring municipalities.
 - a. Councillor M. Farrell expressed concern that by limiting the number of bags there may be increased issues with rodents and unsightliness. She asked if specific areas in Town could be identified as problem areas or if it has been identified as an issue throughout the Town.

K. O'Handley identified that there are problems throughout the Town and that it is an issue of people hoarding garbage, primarily at rental properties. He advised that continued education with the tenants has taken place at specific locations. He noted that bag limits when issued with additional education have worked well elsewhere.

The Chair noted that with other municipalities having an 8-10 bag limit it is reasonable for the Town of Antigonish to also add a limit.

N. Haverkort added that there is a provincial table with bag limits for municipalities.

Further discussion will occur when the Waste Bylaw is reviewed.

2. **Bulky Waste** dates have been added to the Residential Waste Collection schedule for 2021 in consultation with GFL.
 - a. N Haverkort stated that the hauler requires that Bulky Waste events are held specifically with Garbage collection days and therefore, there are some limit to the weeks selected considering convocation and back to school for the StFX students.
3. **3.Green Bins** price was noted as being the same as last order. A larger order of 100 bins was placed, due to Covid restrictions, difficulty in receiving materials, and age of existing bins that will require replacement.
4. **Green Bin Program Funding** through Municipal Approved Programs has been identified as \$10 per bin which helps keep the bins price to residents at \$90 tax included.
5. **Household Hazardous Waste New Site** is up and running. N. Haverkort stated that the Grand Opening has been put on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions. The HHW information has been added to the 2021 Residential Waste Collection Schedule.
 - a. Councillor D. Roberts, Chair commented that she would contact D. Myers at the Municipality of the County of Antigonish to determine if the Town and County could fully promote the event or if due to Covid-19 we continue with directing people to the site through the Town Hotline or other inquiries. She advised that if D. Myers agreed she would discuss with the Mayor to have the information for the opening of the HHW site discussed in her Mayor's report to the media.
6. **New Committee Member**
 - a. The Chair noted that with is a vacant seat for a STFX rep, a Chamber of Commerce representative, and the recent amendment to the Waste Management Committee allows for a community member to join. The advertisement for new committee members will be placed in late January.

Discussion followed on an interested member of the public, the possibility of having a member from the Landlords Rental Association, a staff person involved with StFX waste management instead of a student, and potentially off campus housing.

Councillor Roberts, Chair advised that she would need to discuss options to further amendments to the Advisory Committee Policy with S. Scannell concerning restructuring of the Waste Committee. She will touch base with the off campus StFX coordinator Ms. E. Yeo to determine if there is an interest in joining the Waste Committee.
7. **Dog Waste Receptacles.**
 - a. The Dog Waste Receptacles are noted as being \$650 for the smaller ones and \$750 for the larger type. All agreed this was too expensive and other options should be considered.

- b. Discussion followed on changing the behaviour of dog owners. It was noted that the problem exists when dog owners fail to properly dispose of their animal's waste and often leave the bag on the street. Further education for dog owners on the issue to bags being littered could be a focus with information on why all bags need to be disposed in a garbage receptacle or how to properly dispose of dog waste would be one approach.

8. Provincial Single Use Plastics Ban.

A copy of the regulation with Q&As was distributed at the meeting. It was agreed that the community seems to be accepting the elimination of the single use plastic bag with no major complaints having been received.

9. Residential Waste Collection Schedule

- a. The Residential Waste Collection Schedule has been circulated. K. Gorman has added a copy of the 2021 RWC Schedule to the Town of Antigonish website; a copy has been added to the ERSWM Free Downloadable app by N. Haverkort; copies have been supplied to Eastern GFL for distribution, and copies are located for pick up near the front counter at Town Hall. K. Gorman has informed the citizens by social media that the free 2021 RWC Schedules are available for pick up at Town Hall.

10. Antigonish Kinsmen/Fire Dept Tree Mulch

- a. N. Haverkort advised that the Antigonish Kinsmen in conjunction with the Antigonish area Fire Departments and their sponsors Antigonish Market Square, Antigonish Rental All, Kell's Enterprises, Eastern GFL, Asplundh Tree Services, 98.9 xfm and 101.5 The Hawk will once again host the Tree Mulching event on Saturday, January 9th. Details have been included on the RWC Schedule and will be posted to the Town's website, social media, and hotline voicemail. A copy of the event flyer was also circulated by email to the Committee.

11. Residential Waste Collection Contract

- a. D. Halfpenny reminded the committee that the Residential Waste Collection Contract will expire in 2021 and advised that K. Proctor, P. Eng., Director of Public Works has noted that rather than sending out a request for proposals that the Waste Management Committee consider the service and existing contract to provide input into the development of a Tender.

There was agreement that the existing Spring and Fall Bulky Waste program work well for the citizens. Household hazardous waste now has a full-time location not related to the collection contract. However, it was discussed that Waste Management Committee would consider extending the weekly green bin pick up for an additional 4 weeks depending on costs.

12. Waste Bylaw

- a. Chair D. Roberts commented that the Waste Bylaw revisions have been on hold for several months and that it is time for the Waste Management Committee to focus on getting the changes made. She updated new Committee Member M. Farrell on progress to date, noting that Bylaw Enforcement had provided input, and that the last draft had been sent to K. Proctor, J. Lawrence, and S. Scannell

for additional input.

D. Halfpenny to follow up with S. Scannell for input. A copy is to be sent to all Waste Committee members to review before the next Waste Meeting.

D. Roberts explained that if the Waste Management Committee would come prepared to go through the copy line by line; she expected that by March the Waste Bylaw would be ready to receive legal vetting and soon thereafter be ready to take to Council for approval.

13. Litter Cans

- a. Deputy Mayor A. Murray inquired as to whether the Town of Antigonish had looked at the option of having litter cans attached to the light standards. He stated that aesthetically the chunky concrete litter receptacles are too large and ugly. He noted that while they serve the purpose, they required modification and a lock to prevent people from dumping household waste into them. He provided an illustration of a sleeker basket style litter receptacle that would attach to the light standards. He commented that other municipalities have used them and that they are less intrusive.

The Chair noted that currently the Town prohibits anything even a flyer from being attached to the poles or the light standards. However, she noted it would be worthy of consideration.

Discussion followed on the placement of litter cans, businesses not wanting the litter cans to be located near their property, mixed types of litter cans and sorting stations, and cost associated with dumping of litter cans.

D. Halfpenny was tasked with speaking to the Electrical Department to ask if there is any concern the committee should be aware of if considering the installation of litter cans to the light standards.

(D. Halfpenny spoke to A. Tracey, Supervisor of the Electrical Department on December 14th at 10:38 a.m. A. Tracey advised that the only concern would be if the Town of Antigonish installed this type of litter can to the light standard it would be important to ensure that the hand hold was not obstructed. He stated he had no issue with this type of litter can being installed).

14. Education and Compliance Report

- a. Compliance Officer Report - K. O' Handley circulated his report of activities undertaken within the Town of Antigonish since the March 11, 2020 Waste Management Meeting. He noted that seven landfill inspections have been completed with, five StFX loads and one Antigonish town ICI load and one residential load. In addition, he spent two days monitoring loads at Eastern GFL specific to public drop offs at the building. He advised that several customers were turned away due to improper sorting. He commented that Eastern GFL needs to closely monitor drop offs and encouraged them to get better signage to identify proper location for drop offs. He explained that residents were dropping items off into the C&D pile in error.

O'Handley advised he continues to work with StFX to improve on their waste management efforts. Eliminating the use of black bags, handling cafeteria wastes properly and the constant education of incoming students.

K O' Handley stated that further education is required for residents as there are some that are hoarding garage and not using residential pick up and dropping off of unsorted bags at Eastern GFL. He noted that consideration of a fee by GFL for those dropping off unsorted bags may assist with discouraging residents from this type of behaviour.

15. Next Meeting Date

Next Waste Meeting Wednesday, January 13th at 10 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.