

Waste Management Committee Minutes
December 14, 2022
Town Council Chambers
12:00 noon.

Present

Councillor, D Roberts, Chair
Mayor L. Boucher
Councillor A. Murray
Councillor M. Farrell
L. Crowley, Landlords Association
D. Campbell, StFX Representative
T. Williams, Eastern Region Solid Waste Management Co-Ordinator
K. O'Handley, Eastern Region Solid Waste Compliance Officer
D. Halfpenny, Engineering & Planning Administrative Assistant

Absent with regrets:

A. Starr, Business Owner, Recircle

Call to Order

The Chair, Councillor D. Roberts called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

Additions to the Agenda

The Chair added Black Bags to the agenda.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by A. Murray and seconded by D. Campbell to approve the agenda for December 14, 2022. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2022, was made by D. Campbell and seconded by D. Campbell. Motion approved.

Business Arising from Minutes

Presentation by GFL

D. Roberts advised that the presentation had been postponed for a second time and is now scheduled for Monday, December 19th, 2022. She encouraged committee members to attend.

D. Campbell commented that it would be a great opportunity to find out about the direction the GFL is taking now that they own the Guysborough landfill site.

Unightly appearance on St Ninian's street near the Pride Fence

D. Roberts noted that litter complaints have been received from citizens concerning the number of fast-food plates, napkins, etc. She commented that she had spoke with K. MacInnis who indicated that funding is being allocated to make the area more aesthetically pleasing.

Councillor A. Murray agreed the litter problem is an issue and stated that extends down of the cairn area. He asked for clarification if Styrofoam will be banned the end of 2025. Yes, Styrofoam is schedule to be banned by the end of 2025.

Recircle

T. Williams's advised the A. Starr had reached out to StFX regarding a plan to recycle plastics that would require a fee from StFX students to pay for the plan. T. Williams will circulate the letter received from A. Starr.

Town Litter Pick Up – October 15

D. Roberts reported that the Town Clean Up event had seen 13 bags of garbage removed from Town streets. She noted that 20 people had turned out to do the clean up.

STFX. Litter Pick Up- Oct 16

*Email from D Young, Ph.D., Professor, Faculty of Education reported on StFX clean up.
"I wanted to let you know we had a great cleanup on Sunday, during which we collected 200 pounds of trash. We had great feedback from citizens thanking the students for the great job, so it was a real success!"*

Green Cart Tips

D. Halfpenny advised a list of Green Cart Tips had been created and sent to S. Long to place on the Town of Antigonish website and social media. The tips had also been sent to T. Williams.

Mayor L. Boucher noted that copies could be placed in with the utility bills. Committee members agreed that this was an excellent idea.

Black Bags

D. Roberts advised that businesses continue to sell black bags in Antigonish stores despite the waste bylaw prohibiting the use of black bags.

Discussion followed. It was noted that waste programs vary across the province and the country, and stores are required to follow the point of purchase displays outlined by the product manufacturer.

K. O' Handley stated that all the stores have been visited and made aware of the bylaw and a possible solution would be to have the stores post a note that black bags are not permitted to be used for residential waste collection in Antigonish. He reported that MLA G. Morrow has shown interest in this matter. The Minister of Environment T. Halman has been contacted concerning a motion from ERSWM the committee asking to have a consistent policy on banning plastic bags throughout the province, however, the committee hasn't heard anything back to date.

D. Roberts stated that the topic of Black Bags is to be left on the Waste Management meeting agenda.

Possible Goals for 2023

The Chair asked that committee members take some time to think about what the Waste Management committee can do in 2023 to make a difference.

Discussion followed.

Councillor A. Murray responded that having more garbage disposal options placed in strategic locations would be beneficial. He noted that there are additional benches and waste receptacles that were purchased this year to be placed. He commented that this will be placed in the spring.

The Chair stated that it is important to ensure placement of the benches are aesthetically pleasing.

Councillor M. Farrell commented that a series of handouts should be provided electronically or printed copy for the landlords to provide to each tenant. Items that would be included would be copy of the sorting guide, residential waste collection, app information, household hazardous waste location and green bin tips.

L. Crowley noted that the app has been very useful and that he had obtained 500 copies of the sorting guide to distribute through the Landlord Association.

D. Campbell advised he would also like to have a copy of the sorting guide. A copy of the sorting guide was provided.

M. Farrell stated that the extra three green bin pickups have been a success with residents.

K. O' Handley reported that he conducted 13 landfill inspections consisting of two IC&I, five StFX, five STFX organics and one residential load.

T. Williams and K O' Handley organizing a special event for Waste Reduction Week which is) at the Antigonish People's Place Library called "Quick Fix" on October 20th. The event encouraged people to drop of clean used clothing that may require a new button to be sewn on, a seam to be sewn, or item hemmed.

K O'Handley advised that at the last Enforcement seminar he attended discussion was focused on increasing fines for littering and illegal dumping. He stated that fines will be made consistent across the province and every region will have the same level. RCMP at their discretion will charge \$1000 for littering and \$5000 for illegal dumping.

K. O' Handley noted he was pleased to report that two local business had implemented their composting program and are now in compliance.

Landlord Association

L Crowley advised that the association is officially registered. He noted that they are working on re-establishing membership. He will gather information from the association as to how may members and find out interest level for sorting guides and other waste management material.

L. Crowley stated that the Waste App is a very useful tool for tenants. The Bulky Waste Pick up event works well for tenants and landlords.

STFX Report

D. Campbell reported that STFX is still dealing with the aftermath of hurricane Fiona. He advised that there was a substantial amount of tree damage. Trees have been cut down and need to be chipped. He stated that he is checking to see who he can get to chip the trees.

D. Campbell reported that STFX is looking at ways to decrease student end of year waste. He commented that the goal is to be better prepared this year.

Discussion followed on a past event Trading Treasures which allowed students to donate good quality items to be sold to other students and the public and proceeds to go to charity. The first two hours of the event are open to students, and remaining hours open to the public.

Ideas put forward were to approach the NSE for use of the 4H Barn or the Craft Barn for a location for the event and run-in conjunction with a Farmer Market Day. Proceeds could go to a group such as the Antigonish Fuel Fund, 4H, Affordable housing etc.

Challenges were noted as getting the materials gathered up and dropped off to the site, tagging and organizing for the event. Goal to keep good items out of the landfill and into the hands of people who can reuse. Disposal of any unsold items.

It was noted that Antigonish Buy and Sell is a good resource but with the quick turnaround for students leaving it doesn't give time for all items to be sold.

The Chair stated that these are all good ideas and that the matter should be added to the agenda for 2023.

D. Campbell

Chair D. Roberts thanked K. O'Handley, L. Crowley, and D. Campbell for their reports.

A motion was made by A. Murray and seconded by M. Farrell to accept the reports as read. Motion Carried.

Next Meeting Date

Next Waste Meeting Wednesday, February 8, 12 noon. in Council Chambers.

A motion was made by A. Murray to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.