

Candia Recycling & Energy Committee  
Public Meeting Minutes  
February 22, 2024

Attendance:

Committee members: Clay Caddy, Janet Lewis, Russ Dann, Dick Snow, and Al Couch

The January minutes were approved.

Swap Shop- Russ thanked Clay for the rain gutter he installed at the Swap Shop. It has done an excellent job keeping ice from forming near the doors which had previously made access difficult. Russ said all is going well at the Swap Shop.

Storage trailers- Russ and Clay have looked at some old trailers that have been on the Blevens property for many years, but are still in good shape and could be used for storage at the Recycling Center. The Blevens property was purchased by Hooksett Paving, who has a building next to the property, and Russ said he would talk to them to see if they would give us the trailers for free if we agree to haul them away. Russ said he will wait to speak to them until we can make sure there is a useable area at the Recycling Center where they could be placed. Because they may haul away the trailers before we find a place for them, it was suggested that we try and set up a day and time we could meet with Chuck at the site and see if we can determine if there is an area we could place them. Russ will try to set this up for next Thursday morning.

Metal bunker capacity- Al said that after looking at the scrap metal pile bunker a couple of weeks ago, that it looked like the capacity to store scrap metal was being limited by gravel and small metal pieces that do not get picked up by the grapple machine that loads the scrap. He suggested when we meet with Chuck next week we look at the scrap metal bunker and ask Chuck if it should be cleaned out or leave it the way it is.

Russ also mentioned that the Recycling Center is doing a great job separating metal items, such as copper, aluminum, and other high-value metals from things like refrigerators. Roland Girard has volunteered for years separating precious metals, which gives us a much higher return than items would get if recycled in original condition. As an FYI, it was also noted that in order to take apart units that contain Freon, the gas must first be removed by a company certified to handle Freon removal. This is why there is a charge for residents to bring in refrigerators and other items that contain Freon gas.

Storage for clean wood- Good, clean wood could be reused if we can find a place to store it. Al suggested pallet racks near where the tires are now stored. The racks could be used for wood, batteries, and electronics. It would also make the area look much better if we can get rid of the old shed that is currently being used for batteries. We will review this idea with Chuck when we meet with him next week.

Community Power- Janet asked if anyone had any updates on what was happening with the Community Power program. The Community Power Committee was formed to help the town join the state-wide program, which would aggregate towns so they can purchase power as a group, rather than a separate entity. Dick said he would contact the Community Power Committee to get an update.

At the last meeting Gail asked if NRRRA would allow us to have access to commodity pricing on recycling materials. Knowing what the revenue of individual recycling commodities is can be helpful because it would help us to focus on the on the right things. Also, it would be helpful to know what the general pricing trends are in the recycling markets. Although the town is a member of the NRRRA, committee members are not direct members. Al said he has contacted the NRRRA and was told that we can get general pricing info if we log into the NRRRA site and access specific links on the site. Al will send the login procedure to all committee members.

Plastic bag recycling- Russ said that there are a lot of bags being collected in this new program. Joe is bringing them to the collection location at the Hannaford grocery store in Northwood. The bags are then sent to Trex, where they are recycled into plastic items such as benches and decking material. Al suggested our program would be more visible if the Recycle Center used the large white plastic boxes that Trex gave us. Also, all the information to recycle plastic bags is printed on the front of the boxes.

Lithium batteries- Al mentioned an article in the last NRRRA email that talked about proper battery management, especially for lithium batteries which can be at risk to cause a fire or explosion if they damaged. We will review the handling process and suggested safety kits that are mentioned to make sure our program is as good as it can be in handling these batteries.

Next meeting will be March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Couch, Recycling & Energy Committee member