

Candia Recycling & Energy Committee
Public Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2024

Attendance:

Committee members: Clay Caddy, Gail Thomas, Russ Dann, Dick Snow, and Al Couch

Storage trailers- Discussion took place on the old trailers that have been on the former Blevens property for a long time. There are two trailers that could be used for storage at the Recycling Center. They would be given to us free by the new owners of the property, but there are a few things that need to be worked out for this to happen: 1) Chuck need to determine where the trailers can be placed at the site. 2) We would need to find someone that can haul them to the site. Russ suggested trying Jerry Becker. He will contact him and see if he can figure out how to haul them and what the cost would be. 3) The trailers will need to have some work done on them. This will involve removing the wheels and axles, cutting out the wheel wells, fixing up the floors, and making a ramp for access for the skid-steer. Although it will require a lot of effort, this is probably the least expensive way to set up additional storage space at the Recycling Center. Russ said he will get the cost of moving and getting them set up, and will then review it with the BOS to see if they approve the idea.

Russ asked for a vote to see if the committee thinks we should move ahead to try and get the trailers. All voted in favor of moving ahead with this.

Littleton Transfer Station- Al said he visited the town's transfer station when he was in the area last week. He wanted to see how they were handling the NexTrex collection program for recycling plastic bags. Trex recycles the plastic bags to make new products, such as plastic planks and plastic outdoor furniture.

The manager of the Transfer Station, Steve Bean, said that they already had a vertical baler which is one of the Trex requirements for being a 'NexTrex' collection site. They must also be willing to accept large quantities of plastic bags. In addition, they must also have enough storage so they can have a minimum of 20 bales of bags in order for Trex to have them picked up. Steve said that each bale weighs about 1100 pounds, and they get about \$4,000 per year from Trex for the bags they collect and bale. Al said the Transfer Station building and the transfer site were not that great, (muddy areas and a small building) but they seem to be handling the recycling of materials fairly well.

Right now, we have to bring the bags to a grocery store that is a Trex partner. They send the bags to a NexTrex collection location that can bale them and then send them to Trex. One of the problems we have run into is that some stores limit the quantity that they will accept. Trex is hoping to set up more collection locations soon, so that local stores and towns have a convenient location to send them.

Swap Shop protocols- Al said that when he talked to a Swap Shop volunteer last week, there was a discussion on the list of acceptable items. The volunteer said that a couple of items on the 'not accepted' list were accepted by the volunteer at the Swap Shop. The items were picked up soon after they were dropped off, and they were taken by people that really appreciated the items. One of the items was actually delivered to a resident by a Swap Shop volunteer. The volunteer knew the person needed it, as a resident picked some other items up, but mentioned she would be back to look for an additional item that was needed.

Al asked the committee if they agree that items that are accepted or rejected should be at the discretion of the Swap Shop volunteers. He noted that all the volunteers have a lot of experience. Also, they understand that they should only accept items when there is enough room available to store them. Al also explained that the 'Not Accepted' list is to help the volunteers, so that they do not have to be responsible for rejecting an item. Al said that he felt we should trust the discretion of the experienced volunteers.

A vote was taken and all agreed that items accepted can be at the discretion of the Swap Shop volunteers.

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 25th at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Al Couch, Recycling & Energy Committee member