

Candia Recycling & Energy Committee
Public Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2024

Attendance:

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

Also: Chuck Whitcher, Candia Recycling Center Facility Supervisor

Other attendees: Suzanne Steele, Chairman of the Deerfield Recycling Committee.

Attending via Zoom: Maureen Quinn of the Deerfield Recycling Committee, and Deerfield resident Leslie VanBurken.

This special meeting was set up by Russ so that we could have a discussion with people from Deerfield to talk about the possibility of having them bring recyclables to the Candia Recycling Center. Suzanne had contacted Russ recently to ask about this and Russ suggested we meet to get some basic information from them so that we could begin the process of gathering enough information to determine the feasibility of the request. The meeting was opened with introductions by everyone attending.

Suzanne said the Deerfield Recycling Committee came up with the idea of bringing recyclables to Candia because their recycling is not going well, and a lot of items that could be recycled are being thrown away. Because of their strong focus on recycling, they started to look at other options to keep things out of the trash. She said they are looking at initiating efforts to improve Deerfield's recycling, but it will take a lot of time and effort for it to happen.

Al said that during his many years on the committee working on recycling, one of the major projects they worked on was developing a new recycling center. The town was required to do this due to DES requiring the incinerator to be shut down. The committee's focus was to have the new recycling center provide easier and better ways to recycle. He said that during the four years it took to work out a plan for the new site and facility, he toured many other facilities throughout New England to gather ideas. So he knows how much time and effort it would take to improve what they are doing in Deerfield. He also said he would like to look at their facility again, as he has not been there for many years. He might be able to offer them some ideas after looking at the site. Suzanne said she would be glad to provide a tour of the facility for him. Al said he would also want to get an idea of how much traffic their sites sees. Also, we would need to have some idea of how many people might come to the Candia Facility. That would help us determine the best day/days for Deerfield residents to come to our facility.

Chuck said that he had recently given Suzanne a tour of the Candia Recycling Facility, and he gave her information on the items that were being recycled. He said that if this moves forward, he would suggest using special stickers for Deerfield residents. There would be a fee for stickers. Chuck also said that they would only be able to bring items that the Candia Recycling Center would make money on by recycling it. They would not be allowed to bring items that would cost money. An example is glass, which is a commodity that we pay to recycle. Chuck also said that some items that vary in either making money or costing money to recycle, due to market variations would not be included. He also said that as an FYI, he wants the Deerfield Committee members to understand that even if they might not make money by recycling a particular material, it still saves the town money. This is because if it goes into the trash that means it will go into a landfill at a much higher cost than paying a small fee to recycle the item. The trash disposal cost includes tipping fees for the landfill, transportation, and also paying for a container to store the trash.

Russ suggested that to help reduce traffic, that maybe Deerfield residents could try to form small neighborhood groups, so that one vehicle could handle recycling for several neighbors.

Maureen suggested that if we can move forward with this, she suggests doing it initially as a pilot program, so that things could be tried out. Then they could determine if it will work well enough to continue with it.

Janet asked if recycling was mandatory at the recycling center in Deerfield. Suzanne said that it is not currently mandatory.

Chuck asked if the Recycling Committee talked to the Deerfield Board about their plan to talk to Candia about bring their recyclables there. Suzanne said that she did speak with the Board and they were fine with the idea of recycling going to Candia.

Leslie said she is very frustrated with the way recycling is going overall for everyone. She noted that especially with things like plastics, they are difficult to recycle because of the many types of plastics being used. Much of this could be replaced with other easier-to-recycle materials. She also said she feels people should try to avoid buying products that are in plastic containers. All agreed with her thoughts on this.

Ideas were discussed on the best way to move forward on having Deerfield residents bring their recyclables to Candia. It was suggested having a special day or days for Deerfield residents to go to the Candia Recycling Center. It was noted that although a weekday would have less local traffic, it would be difficult for Deerfield residents to do this because if they work, they would probably not be able to get there before closing. Special Deerfield stickers would also be used to identify them for their specific recycling requirements. It was also suggested that a special flyer be made up specifically for Deerfield residents, which would clearly identify what items they could or could not drop off.

Russ said now we have all the necessary information, this will go to the town Board to see if they will approve a plan to have Deerfield residents use the Candia Recycling facility. The Deerfield people then left the meeting and the Recycling Committee continued discussion. Clay said he feels we should have another meeting to further discuss the details and try to solidify a plan. Clay said he will set up a date for January and will notify the committee members.

Chuck brought up the subject of food composting. He has done research on this, and said he tried to get some idea on what residents thought of starting a new program for composting. He said he asked a number of residents at the facility if they would be interested in food composting, but he could not get a clear yes or no answer, because everyone wanted to know what it would entail. Chuck said he was a bit frustrated with this as he could not figure out if residents would like to try this or not. Food composting has many options for setting up a program, and Chuck has not yet chosen a particular one. He will continue doing more research on available programs and try to find out if residents are interested or not. He did find out from his research so far that there is a large amount food waste that is dumped in with other trash, so it does add cost to landfilling the waste.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Next meetings:

Clay will set up an early January meeting for further discussion on Deerfield.

Next regular meeting: Thursday, January 23, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Couch, Recycling & Energy Committee member