

Candia Recycling & Energy Committee
Public Meeting Minute
February 27, 2025

Attendance:

Committee members:

Russ Dann, Clay Caddy, Janet Lewis, Gail Thomas, Dick Snow, and Al Couch.

Other Candia attendees: Canny Griswold- Swap Shop volunteer, and Chuck Whitcher- Candia Recycling Center Facility Supervisor.

Deerfield Recycling Committee: Suzanne Steele, Wadsworth Winslow III, Scott Stantial, Lisa Dufresne, and Marie Bolster.

Attending via Zoom: Karen from Deerfield and Robert from Deerfield.

This meeting was arranged so that we could have a comprehensive discussion directly with the Deerfield Recycling Committee to help us to move forward on their request to have Deerfield residents bring recyclables to the Candia Recycling Center.

Chuck started with discussion on the concerns he has allowing Deerfield residents bringing recyclables to Candia. He said one of the major concerns is that it would not make a good impression for Candia residents and businesses if this ended up costing the town money. Because of this, the materials they bring in would be strictly limited to items that we get revenue for, which means that the town would get additional revenue from the program. Deerfield would be given a specific list of acceptable and non-acceptable items. Also, the Recycling Center staff would need to be able to clearly identify Deerfield resident's cars, so they can make sure they are dropping off the appropriate materials. This would require special stickers, for which there would have to be a fee for. He said the fee would be \$25 per year.

Chuck said another concern he has would be having to deal with too much traffic, so he would want to limit the available days to Wednesdays and Thursdays, which are their slower days. This initial program would be a trial program for six months to see how it works for everyone. If the trial works, he would then extend it to a 3 year or up to a 5 year program. Chuck said the program would also have to be limited to a set amount of Deerfield residents to keep traffic at a reasonable level. He said he thought that fifty people would be an appropriate number.

Suzanne said she thought that it was not inappropriate to limit the days, and she also felt that fifty would be a good number of residents to allow. She said their committee would need to find a way to reach out to all Deerfield residents to let them know about this program. They will also need to figure out the best way to choose who would participate in the program. She is sure that the participating residents will much appreciate how recycling is handled at the Candia facility, especially compared to the inefficient way the Deerfield facility does it.

Suzanne said that one of the major advantages of Deerfield residents coming to Candia is that they would be able to see how properly organized recycling system works. This would all be a big advantage for the Deerfield Committee because participants in the program would then very likely be supportive of improvements to the Deerfield Transfer Station, which would make their recycling much better, and it would give the town a much higher return for recyclables than they get now.

Chuck also pointed out that it is not only getting a good return on recycling materials that is important, but also the fact that when the NH landfills reach capacity and are shut down, the waste would then need to be shipped to a location far away, which will cost much more. So this is another important reason to try to recycle as much as possible, which keeps more material out of the landfills.

Gail asked that if the program caused too many problems at the Recycling Center, could it be stopped sooner than the six month timeline? Chuck replied they probably could, but he will have to see how it goes. Gail suggested that Deerfield could assign a greeter person that could be at the Recycling Center, to help them learn about the Candia facility, and to help them learn about how proper recycling works. Everyone agreed that it was a good idea.

Lisa mentioned how difficult some recycling is, especially things like plastics, which are very hard to recycle, because some are good to recycle and some cannot be recycled. Chuck said they will be willing to help Deerfield residents understand all of their recycling programs, and also help them understand how to recycle properly with things like plastics.

Suzanne said they will also do what they can ahead of time, to help the participants understand all the guidelines and how to properly recycle. She said their plan is to have a group forum before the program starts.

Chuck said he could also give tours of the Candia facility to help them. He would do this on days that are not too busy, or maybe even on a Friday when the facility is closed.

The use of the Swap Shop by Deerfield residents was then discussed. Chuck said he thought about this for a while, but now thinks it should be available to Deerfield residents. He said one of the big advantages of the Swap Shop is keeping a lot of items out of the landfill. This also saves the town a lot of money by avoiding the disposal costs. Chuck said the only problem is the limited parking that is available, but it might not be a major problem. Wadsworth mentioned that Deerfield has a swap shop, but it is very small, has poor access, and has very limited hours.

Russ said we should discuss the next steps for the Deerfield program. Recycling Committee members felt they should meet again to finalize the details for this program, so that we can then go the BOS to request a final approval for it.

Clay said we should try to set up a special meeting next week to review the program and discuss any potential issues. We would then be able to finalize all the details and be able to request a final Board approval.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Couch, Recycling & Energy Committee member