

Conservation Commission of the Town of Halifax, Vermont: Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

September 25, 2019

Present: Stephan Chait (SC), Jessica Cooney (JC), Laurel Copeland (LC), Linda Huebner (LH), Dov Towler (DT), 3 guests –Athena Lee Bradley (invited speaker; ALB), Janet Taylor (resident visitor; JT), and Althea Carroll (resident visitor; AC).

Meeting convened 7:01 pm at the Town Clerk Office

1. **Minutes** - Voted to amend and approve the previous meeting minutes, of August 27, 2019, with 3 minor edits from LC.
2. **New Business: Recycling Hazardous Materials** – Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) representative Athena Lee Bradley presented. She has 30 years’ experience in public and private enterprises to handle hazardous waste and specializes in organics. She came to WSWMD in March 2019. The next WSWMD **Hazardous Material Event will be Saturday morning, October 19, 2019**. ALB described the hazardous household waste collection event and asked us to help advertise it with her flyers. She provided the members of the HCC with copies of the flyer for the 10/19/2019 event (see below). The location of the event is both WSWMD Transfer Station, 327 Old Ferry Road in Brattleboro, and Stratton Transfer Station, 9 West Jamaica Road in Stratton. The HCC could help get the word out to Halifax residents. ALB sends event flyers to all Windham town clerks for posting and posts in grocery stores, etc. A Halifax resident could post on FPF (LC expressed interest in doing this) as WSWMD is not a member of FPF (too costly \$1000).

Post-meeting addendum -- As a reminder, ideas for communication venues HCC presented last month included:

- a. Website announcement (Town of Halifax)
- b. Town Clerk/PO/Halifax Center mailboxes paper postings
- c. Our HCC FaceBook page
- d. Front Porch Forum (FPF)
- e. Halifax Newsletter for Oct 1st

A second topic ALB discussed is engaging the schools in food scraps management. Keeping food scraps out of the trash will become mandatory in Vermont on July 1, 2020. Thus, this school year is when Halifax SVUUSD needs to prepare for food scrap composting. JC will provide ALB with the principal’s contact info. Options for composting include 2 units that WSWMD is selling, The Earth Machine suited to home use and the Jora for businesses & schools (see handout “Basic Home Composting Recipe”). A Vermont Community Garden program can help communities pay for a composter. JC reported that Halifax Elementary obtained a composter but is not using it. ALB will be contacting Halifax businesses re composting. She commented that a local chicken farmer might take the food scraps to feed to the chickens. She proposed that Halifax / **HCC have a spring event** about the coming mandate and about composting for schools, businesses, and homeowners.

ALB went over their 3-page “event” handout. It details how to engage with WSWMD to encourage recycling at events. LC asked whether the Halifax Celebration group was working with her to have recycling containers at the Sept 28 Celebration this Saturday. No one has contacted her. LC will ask the planning group via Messenger text about getting some “ZW” Stations (Zero Waste recycling / compost / trash bins).

Windham Solid Waste Management District Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)
Products labeled: toxic, poisonous, corrosive, irritant, flammable, or combustible



When
Saturday, October 19
8 am – 12 pm

Where

- WSWMD Transfer Station
327 Old Ferry Road, Brattleboro
- Stratton Transfer Station
9 W. Jamaica Road, Stratton

Fee: \$10/household
Limit: 10-gallons/household

TOO TOXIC TO TRASH



- ✓ **What to Bring**
- ✓ Adhesives
 - ✓ Antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline
 - ✓ Aerosol, arts/craft, auto paints
 - ✓ Bleach
 - ✓ Brake fluid
 - ✓ Car wax & polishes
 - ✓ Chemistry sets
 - ✓ Cleaners/spot removers
 - ✓ Drain & toilet cleaners
 - ✓ Driveway sealer
 - ✓ Fertilizer (chemical)
 - ✓ Fuel additives
 - ✓ Herbicides, pesticides
 - ✓ Moth balls
 - ✓ Muriatic acid
 - ✓ Paint thinners & strippers
 - ✓ Pool chemicals
 - ✓ Roofing tar
 - ✓ Solvents

- ⊗ **What NOT to Bring**
- Paint products - *see below*
 - Batteries, unwanted electronics, fluorescent lights (*free disposal at WSWMD*)
 - Ammunition/explosives/fireworks
 - Medical waste, syringes
 - Mercury containing devices
 - Radioactive waste



Paint Recycling Made Free & Easy!

Paint & paint related products can be recycled at the **WSWMD Transfer Station**. For stores that accept paint, check www.paintcare.org. LIMIT: 10 cans/visit at WSWMD; 5 cans/at store drop-offs.

Products Accepted: oil-based, acrylic, water-based/latex, alkyd, oil-based, enamels, deck coatings, floor paints, primers, undercoaters, sealers, stains, shellacs, lacquers, varnishes, urethanes, waterproofing concrete/masonry/wood sealers and repellents, metal coatings, rust preventatives, and field/lawn paints.

The HHW Collection Events are open to residents in Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) member towns: Brattleboro, Brookline, Dover, Dummerston, Guilford, Halifax, Jamaica, Marlboro, Newfane, Putney, Readsboro, Somerset, Stratton, Townshend, Vernon, Wardsboro, Westminster, and Wilmington.

Businesses, schools, and institutions that generate less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month (Conditionally Exempt Generators or "CEGs") may take part in the HHW Collection Events for a fee. Email a waste inventory to recycle@windhamsolidwaste.org or call 257.0272 by October 1 in order to be accepted. For additional information on proper disposal of hazardous wastes, what's accepted at our HHW Collection Events, and nontoxic alternatives: www.windhamsolidwaste.org.

Over

The WSWMD has a new website in development. It covers or will cover toxics reduction (currently costing \$20,000 for toxics from 160 persons in our area), the Extended Producer Responsibility Act (mandating that companies that produce toxic products like pesticides must also help pay to safely dispose of them), and Windham County hand-outs. **HCC site and fb page should link to this WSWMD site.** See <https://windhamsolidwaste.org/>.

ALB also discussed Halifax' current recycling contract. Town of Halifax contracts with TAM (Trevor is point person) to manage our dual-stream recycling, with one dumpster for cardboard and a second dumpster for cans, bottles, tin foil, and plastics. Casella has bought TAM. Therefore, once our contract runs out, Casella will be our town's option. Casella uses single-stream recycling (everything mixed together) which is known to promote contamination of recyclables (e.g., the paper is full of broken glass); contaminated recyclables is a major factor in China's 2018 decision to stop accepting US plastic recyclables.

ALB noted a few other important points. Avoid Styrofoam – it is not recyclable and is harmful to humans. Pill bottles are NOT recyclable because they are too small for the recycling (sorting) machinery. Solo cups in spite of recycling logo seem NOT to be recyclable. Plastic planter pots over 2 gallons are NOT recyclable because they are too big for the machinery. Plastic file & plastic single-use bags continue to be NON-recyclable because they tangle up the machinery.

3.New Business: Green River Field Trip of September 17, 2019: SC went; it was excellent. Mike Leff led the excursion to the island in Guilford on Green River Road at mailbox 6202. Information Mike presented included the plantings chosen to abate additional erosion of the island formed by Storm Irene, and that the hazardous waste removed from the new island was all from the (swept-away) household, and that the process to obtain the property provided a useful model for future efforts.

4.New Business: Dennison Property Listing: Janet Taylor presented. Mr. Dennison owned more than 1200 acres in Halifax where he hoped to develop a slate quarry. After a 5-year battle with residents, the State of Vermont made an Act 250 ruling against the proposal. Mr. Dennison has died, and his heirs have listed the property for sale. Per the published listing, it abuts some conserved land, contains a house, is appraised at \$1.29M, and is listed at \$1.99M. LC expressed interest about how to conserve this large piece of property. JT will follow-up with LC by email.

5.Old Business: Logo – JC presented a compound image. LC reported that 1 of the 5 Halifax artists, Netta Kies, expressed interest in coming up with something.

6.Old Business: E-mail address for Halifax Conservation Commission is HalifaxVTConserve@gmail.com! While working on the fb page for Halifax Conservation Commission, JC ran into the fb page of the Halifax Conservation Group led by Sue Kelly to oppose the Denison quarry. The members discussed how to manage associated confusion. LC proposed having both fb pages explicitly refer to each other. In addition, LC needs to accept the fb invitation from JC.

7.Old Business: Cultural Resources – No update (DT). LH went on Rich Holschuh's river tour and heard presentation on the Abenaki Indians in Northfield down to Barton's Cove.

8.Other Business: New dry hydrant was installed on Sprague Road. Would using it affect the river or pond life? Wayne Courser was on site when Fire Department installed it. JC talked with the company installing the dry hydrant but still has these questions. HCC members will look into this.

9.Next Meeting – Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned 8:57 pm