

Draft Minutes

Town Of Marlboro Special Select Board Meeting on Recycling Saturday, May 13, 2023

Attendees: Jim Agate – SB Chair; Molly Welch – SB Vice-Chair; Jeff Skramstad – SB Member; Nick Morgan – SB Assistant; Robyn Boardman, Catherine Hamilton, Malcom Moore, Kate Tarlow Morgan – In Person; Adrian Segar, Kate Kirkwood, Gussie Bartlett, Nancy Anderson, Tim Lewontin – via ZOOM.

Call To Order: 2:01pm

Special Select Board Meeting Agenda

Identify Any Changes to Agenda: none

Scheduled Business

Unscheduled Open Public Comment: None

Opening Remarks by James Agate – Select Board Chair

The Select Board Chair, James Agate, welcomed attendees to the meeting and laid out the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Marlboro Recycling Center, the issues it was having, and possible solutions. Jim noted that the Board would discuss their ideas and was hopeful that those in attendance would contribute their thoughts and ideas as well, as the Town works to maintain the Center and have it work efficiently.

Discussion on Current Issues & Solutions with The Recycling Center

- The main concerns of the Board and the Town residents in attendance were several, including:
 - Placing recyclables in the “wrong” bin (i.e., cardboard in the “comingled container” bin), overfilling the bins so that materials fall out, putting non-recyclable plastic bags in bins.
 - Solutions to this included more and clearer signage and education of what to do should a container be full (i.e., if Cardboard bin is full, don’t put on the ground or in the other bin), more signage as to which materials go into which bin, and better education as to what is considered recyclable and what is not (i.e., plastic grocery bags).
 - The leaving of trash (non-recyclable) in and around the bins and the use of the Recycling Center by non-Marlboro Residents.
 - Solutions discussed for these issues included increased signage (i.e., Area under Surveillance, For Use of Marlboro Residents Only, No Dumping of Non-Recyclable Trash, etc.), installing a fence with central door access for people and large “swing” radius for providing access to trucks picking up and dropping off bins, investigating Littering Ordinances to see if the town can use littering laws to fine dumpers and non-residents, and the installation of “Ring-Type” motion-activated cameras to capture the license plates of violators in order to issue tickets/summons should Littering Laws allow.
 - People entering the bins to retrieve bottles & cans for the deposit refund, causing possible clean-up issues as well as liability issues.
 - The Board will discuss with TTT about having some sort of locking mechanism on the bins to prevent access to the bins by the public.
 - The Road Crew currently expends work time to maintain the Recycling Center (clean up, etc.) generating an expenditure for the town on this task instead of Road Work tasks.
 - The Board was advised that our current hauler Triple T may have a program where they supply a person to “police” the area, the Board will investigate the costs of this and investigate the possibility of either hiring some one to do this, or work to set up a committee to organize town volunteers to do this maintenance work. This is an important element as blowing trash can impact the area behind the Highway Garage which could have an environmental impact.

Broad-based & Long-term Solutions

- The meeting discussed several long-term issues and solutions, including: the feasibility of finding a new location for the Recycling Center away from the Highway Garage (and Route 9) which might alleviate some of the non-resident usage as it would not be so readily accessible or known to non-residents. Such a new location might also be simpler to fence. Areas mentioned were the old “Dog Pound” area and possibly a location up near Potash Hill, though with all their activities it was thought that this would not be an option.
 - The Board thought that finding a new location was worth looking into but felt that finding solutions for the current location was the best option.
- There was also discussion regarding the possibility of fencing, locking and manning the Center with distinct hours of operation.
 - Obviously, this solution would entail salary costs and during the colder parts of winter could cause some difficulty. As mentioned above, and locked gate with a combination lock that Town residents would be privy to, would be a better option here.
- As also mentioned above, the meeting discussed in more depth how to provide the “education” needed to Town residents so that the Recycling Center can continue to be a benefit to the Town and not a host of problems.
 - The Board noted that they would work on this issue and come up with a plan.

Discussion of Current Costs to Maintain the Recycling Center

- As part of the discussion, the costs of maintaining the Center were reviewed, with it being noted that the overall cost for 2023 is, based on four months of costs, will be approximately \$32,000 for the year, which when broken down by the approximately 400 residences in Marlboro comes to approximately \$80 per residence, which further converts to a cost of about \$7/month per residence. This cost does not include the costs contributed by the Road Crew for their time in keeping the area clean and other actions when needed. Such a cost will be determined and supplied at subsequent meetings.
 - In determining costs moving forward, the cost of fencing, signage, cameras, and possibly a service to “police” and clean up the area will need to be determined and amortized to get a yearly cost.
 - One way of potentially reducing costs would be (as mentioned above) to form a Volunteer Recycling Committee that would work to recruit volunteers and schedule them to help “police” and maintain the area.

General Consensus Regarding the Future

- The sense of the Board and the general consensus of the attendees was that that Recycle Center is an important aspect of Marlboro and everything that can, should be done, to maintain the Center, while providing solutions to the problems discussed. To this end, the Board noted that it would move forward with investigating the idea of fencing at the Center’s current location along with increased signage, surveillance, and scheduled clean-up. The Board also noted that it would investigate the potential to move the Center to a different location away from Route 9 which might be easier to maintain as a “Marlboro Only” facility.
- As many of these ideas may take time to come to fruition, especially providing time for fencing to make its impact felt, the Board noted that while maybe not this year, but the following, to put maintaining the Recycling Center on the Warning/Ballot as an article for the Town to vote on, in terms of the value of the Recycling Center versus the costs to keep it viable and productive.

After thanking the Attendees, the Board noted, prior to adjourning, that they realized that there was much more work to be done and ideas investigated and that there would be follow-up to the meeting, either in another “Special” meeting or a regular SB meeting mostly dedicated to this topic.

Motion to Adjourn @ 2:54 pm – (Agate/Welch – Passed unanimously)