

## Solid Waste Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2019

**Board members present:** Phil Griffin, Charlotte Hebert, Adam VonDette, and Audrey Bethel

**Also present:** State Representative Marjorie Porter, Laura Buono, Jon Daley, Luke Levesque, Patrick Greene and Angela Poluchov

Luke presents current comingle conundrum— it is getting more and more expensive to try to recycle are mixed plastics. He passes around print outs of our Transfer Station tipping fee history for 2018 as well as numbers for the 2019 year so far.

He also compares that with the data for current Mixed Solid Waste (MSW) tipping fees and feels that the numbers force us to look at changing our current system.

He proposes “plastic to energy” costs that would mean residents just dispose of all their plastics in regular trash. Tin would be separated. Cardboards, paper, & aluminum would all still be recycled as they currently are.

Discussion on the topic includes pros and cons of such a drastic change – and the difficulty with switching back if/ when the markets change again to make it more economically viable to recycle plastics again.

Luke says he doesn't love the proposal but he says then at least “you know where it goes”.

Contract with our incinerator is up next year.

Whereas right now, we are paying a lot to tip our plastics and there is no guarantee they are all getting recycled.

He explains that it will need to go to the Board of Selectmen to vote on the information he has prepared about the comingle plastics and they will be final say.

Marjorie talks about the solid waste discussion happening at the State House level- the current committee who is taking testimony to create a report. We draft a statement from our SWAB board to sign and submit.

Also she reports they are moving forward to link HB 102 (in regards to allowing towns to ban plastic bags) and HB 559 (more general single-use plastics ban). But we discuss how it would be better coming as a state-wide ban instead of town by town. Marjorie says that would be hard to pass, goes against the “NH advantage” and would be seen as bad for business. She says she is surprised the plastics issue does not garner more bi-partisan support as it is an issue affecting all. Representative Balch is looking into Styrofoam ban as well... Also state landfills are costing lots of money as the PFOAS in soil and water years later.

Marjorie asks if there is anything else our committee would like to bring to the State House level to be considered for a bill? We mention the “Plastics to Oil” technology and she says she will bring it to some folks she knows in the senate.

Angela passes around an article written by MIT researcher about why all our plastics should be trash. We talk about how the SWAB would need to really help get the word out and explain things to folks if this new change with comingle does move forward.

We return to the idea that all roads really do lead back to the manufacturers of the products that use so much plastic packaging and we need to push the pressure up.

**Next Meeting : Thursday Nov. 21 at 7:30 am**