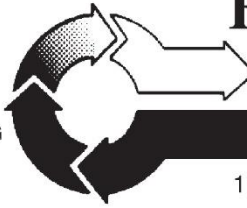


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Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

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DISTRICT BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES MEETING MINUTES September 16, 2020

Representatives and Alternates Present: Justin Lawrence – Bernardston; Andrea Donlon – Buckland; Jonathan Lagreze – Colrain; Lynn Rubinstein – Conway; Bryan Smith – Erving; Hilma Sumner – Heath; Annette Herda – Leverett; Chris Boutwell – Montague; Amy Fagin – New Salem; Bob MacEwen – Northfield; Terry Narkewicz – Shelburne; Doug Tanner – Wendell; Larry Kuttner – Whately

Representatives Absent: Marguerite Willis – Charlemont; Reenie Clancy – Deerfield; MA Swedlund – Deerfield; Arthur Cohen – Gill; Bob Root – Hawley; Ed Billiel - Orange; Priscilla Curtis – Orange; Tom Fydenkevez – Sunderland; Michael Mankowsky – Warwick;

Others Present: Jan Ameen – Executive Director; Amy Donovan – Program Director; Stephanie Meehleder – Administrative Assistant

Due to Covid 19, this was a virtual meeting via GoToMeeting. It was called to order at 6:13 p.m. Jan introduced Amy Fagin from New Salem and Bryan Smith from Erving. They are new representatives.

I. Review and Accept Minutes: A motion was made by Larry Kuttner and seconded by Lynn Rubinstein to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2020 meeting. No amendments or changes were made. Motion passed unanimously.

II. District operations during pandemic: Jan and Stephanie have been alternating office time and Amy is working fully from home. We have been continuing some non-contact sales of compost bins and kitchen pails but the office is currently closed to the public.

III. Annual events during pandemic: Both May and October Clean Sweep Collections were cancelled but we hope to be back in May 2021. Our annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection day is on September 26. We will be following a modified and a somewhat condensed version with new safety measures in place.

IV. Executive Director's Report: The District ended the FY20 year with a \$13,000 deficit mostly due to the move to the new office in November 2019. We also lost our storage space for our event bins but we were able to purchase a shed and make an agreement to keep the shed at the fairgrounds. Jan had applied for a \$25k OSHA grant through the state for training transfer station attendants on health and safety. We are still working with a local consultant, Lynn Rose, who is creating a guide for town administrators. We started the new Springfield MRF contracts on July 1 and the towns did receive their first invoice. Jan created a table that will track the market value and the amount the towns need to pay. For example, in July it was \$93.50 with a \$23.76 market value credit so the amount owed by towns was approximately \$69.70. The rate for September decreased to \$60.00 because the market value increased by \$10. Jan will continue to track this and will send the table out to board members. Jan assisted Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School in taking in inventory

and helping find a reasonable price for disposal of their lab chemicals. Jan spent time in Erving trying to figure out the increase in tonnage of trash. She's working with Bryan Smith to make sense of the increased numbers and possibly create a modified pay-as-you-throw program to help where the residents have some sort of accountability for increases. Bryan expressed that he is still investigating it and noted that there is no increase in recycling only trash. Most towns qualified for the Recycling Dividend Program Grant. Some have seen an increase in funds. After the Household Hazardous Waste Day, Jan will be starting annual transfer station inspections. On July 10th we filed a case with Superior Courts against Department of Labor Standards continuing the prevailing wage challenge. It could be 2-3 months before the state responds so there are no updates at this time. See the full Executive Director's Report for additional information.

V. Program Director's Report: Amy participated in a segment on "Mass Appeal" on WWLP 22 News about composting. She also hosted a webinar with The Greater Quabbin Food Alliance on home composting. The webinar had about 272 participants from as far away as Ontario. The link will be available in the report. She also participated in a small group workshop with Greater Quabbin Food Alliance at Clearview Composting in Orange. Amy worked on the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle publication in the Greenfield Recorder, Daily Hampshire Gazette and Athol Daily News. It was in the papers on June 3rd and she is working on distributing it around the county. With new MRF contracts there are a few changes that went into effect July 1. The MRF stopped accepting shredded paper and aerosol cans and have started accepting clear plastic cups and clear plastic egg cartons. Amy has been working with the MRF Advisory Board to update and distribute all materials reflecting the changes. Northfield now has a new book box from Discover Books for hard cover books. This is a program that is strictly for donation because towns are no longer getting paid for books due to the decrease in value. If your town is interested in getting a book box, contact Amy. See the full Program Director's Report for additional information.

VI. Town Reports / New Business / Schedule Next Meeting:

The next board meeting is November 18th.

Jonathan Lagreze moved to adjourn the meeting and Chris Boutwell seconded. Passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

The following written materials were used at the meeting: None