

City of Biddeford
Recycling & Solid Waste Management Commission
December 20, 2023 6:30 PM Public Works

Status:

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of Minutes for November 13, 2023**
 - 2.1. Minutes
[Recycling and Solid Waste Minutes 11.13.2023.pdf](#)
- 3. Discussion / Approval**
 - 3.1. Update on New Waste Trucks
 - 3.2. Automated Waste Truck Update on Collection in New City Areas
 - 3.3. Update on PAYT Orange Bags
 - 3.4. Composting Food Waste / D.E.P. Permit
 - 3.5. Reschedule Video on Curbside Placement of Bins
- 4. Other Business**
- 5. Agenda for Next Meeting**
- 6. Commission Roster Changes**

Recycling & Solid Waste Management Commission Minutes

November 13th, 2023 6:30 PM Meeting

1. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:37pm.
- b. Present: Members Burkett, Malon, Goodrow, Shapiro, Tarbox and O'Driscoll.
Member LaFountain arrived late.
- c. Absent: Members Ortiz and Enan.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approved unanimously.

3.1. Update - Update on New Waste Trucks

- a. The delivery of the new waste trucks is anticipated for the first week of December. The trucks should be operational by mid December.

3.2. Update on Existing Automated Waste Truck & New Route

- a. Eight streets/locations in the city have been identified as having potential access issues due to their width, posing a challenge for the truck's automatic arm.
- b. The department is fine-tuning its approach and aims to limit the imposition of "No Parking" restrictions.
- c. Where parking restrictions are absolutely necessary, the aim is to enforce time-based restrictions. Director Demers will provide the Commission with additional information and keep them informed of future updates.
- d. Another significant challenge with the automatic trucks is managing the overflow of solid waste. Currently, staff are manually hauling over 50 overflow bags daily.
- e. Various options are being considered, including directing residents to bring overflow bags to the transfer station or another specified location. Another option could be to mandate larger containers instead of the current orange bags, though this would entail additional costs for the city. As an interim solution, a staff member could follow the trucks to pick up overflow bags manually.
- f. Director Demers will provide a proposal regarding the solid waste overflow/orange bags for the Commission to discuss and consider at their December meeting. Ultimately, any major policy changes will go through the Commission, Policy Committee, and the City Council.

3.3. Update - Composting Food Waste / New Permit Through DEP for Cooking Oil

- a. DEP denied Biddeford's food waste compost permit because it did not meet the necessary threshold. Director Demers had worked with DEP throughout the permit process.
- b. Director Demers will update the application and re-submit to DEP.
- c. Members of the Commission expressed a strong desire for DEP to expedite the new permit request.

3.4. Reschedule Video for Curbside Placement of Bins

- a. Member Shapiro will be the spokesperson for the educational video.
- b. Director Demers will call Member Shapiro with additional information.

3.5. Update - New Bin for Textile Goods

- a. The textile bin has been in operation for five months and there have been no issues reported.
- b. Public Works estimates the bin is filled every 10 days.

- c. The new sign equipment has arrived.
- d. Staff will create an informational sign by next month to post on the Textile Recycling Bin. This will include information about acceptable materials.

4. Other Business

- a. Chair Malon informed the Commission that he will not be returning to the Commission after his term ends in December.
- b. The Mayor will need to appoint a new Commission Chair by January.
- c. Member Shapiro expressed interest in serving as the next Commission Chair.
- d. Member Goodrow also shared that she will not be returning to the Commission.
- e. Both Chair Malon and Member Goodrow expressed appreciation to the Public Works Director for his leadership of the Commission and the entire Department of Public Works.
- f. Member Enan will also be leaving the Commission as she is moving outside of Biddeford.
- g. The Commission will have four openings. Commission members should help recruit new members.
- h. Chair Malon suggested the Commission make a formal request to the Mayor at their December meeting to recommend the next Chairperson.
- i. Chair Malon asked if Director Demers had any updates on requiring stickers at the transfer station. Director Demers is working with the City Clerk to require placards for residents. If approved, the placards would be free and sent annually with tax bills to residents and landlords (to be provided to tenants). Director Demers will provide more information at a future meeting.
- j. Director Demers shared that the number of 'grandfathered' solid waste pick-up properties is down to 13. Two were removed in November after they were sold to new owners.
- k. Member LaFountain asked if Public Works is involved with solid waste or recycling at Waterhouse Field. Director Demers indicated that the School Department is in charge of solid waste and recycling at all their facilities. Member O'Driscoll shared that Waterhouse field does have bottle/can return bins but it does not have recycling bins.
- l. Member Goodrow inquired if Public Works is collecting any trash from the homeless encampments. Director Demers shared that his team is servicing the encampment located near Mechanics Park with a port a-potty and regular trash pickups.

5. Commission Roster Changes if Needed

- a. There is one vacancy on the Commission.
- b. There will be four vacancies on the Commission by January

6. Agenda for Next Meeting

- a. Email Chair Malon to request any items on a future agenda.
- b. Two topics have already been proposed: potential solutions for the overflow bags and a formal vote to recommend the next Commission Chairperson to the Mayor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.