

City of Biddeford
Recycling & Solid Waste Management Commission
March 20, 2024 6:30 PM Public Works

Status:

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of Minutes for February 21, 2024**
 - 2.1. Minutes February 21, 2024
[Recycling and Solid Waste Minutes 2.21.2024.pdf](#)
- 3. Discussion / Approval**
 - 3.1. Update on New Waste Truck Performance
 - 3.2. Update on PAYT Orange Bags
 - 3.3. Discuss New Trash Ordinance
 - 3.4. Discuss Streets that will be Posted with "NO PARKING" Signs on Trash / Recycling Pickup Days
 - 3.5. Discussion on Grandfathered Units that have been Sold and are No Longer Receiving Curbside Collection Service
 - 3.6. Update on Recycling Award
- 4. Other Business**
- 5. Agenda for Next Meeting**
- 6. Commission Roster Changes if Needed**

Recycling & Solid Waste Management Commission Minutes

February 21st, 2024 6:30 PM Meeting

1. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:35pm.
- b. Present: Members Burkett, Shapiro, Moriarty, Ortiz, LaFountain, and Pierson.
- c. Absent: Members Tarbox and O'Driscoll.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. January's scheduled meeting did not meet quorum. No votes were taken and no minutes recorded.

3.1. Update - Update on New Waste Trucks

- a. Both new automatic waste trucks are operational.
- b. Both trucks are on route approximately 6-7 hours per day. Trucks are washed one time per day and greased one time per week.
- c. The Department of Public Works takes impeccable care of the vehicle fleet as evidenced by consistent high trade-in values.
- d. Director Demers and his team continue to review a small list of streets that present a challenge for automatic waste truck operations.

3.2. Update - City Orange Bags Discussion

- a. One significant challenge with the automatic trucks is managing the overflow orange bags for solid waste. Currently, staff are manually hauling over 50 overflow bags daily.
- b. Director Demers is conducting a review of the city's definition of solid waste before proposing any changes to the orange bag policy.
- c. The review includes examining the definitions and ordinances of household solid waste in other municipalities, such as South Portland, to inform potential policy adjustments in Biddeford.
- d. The goal of refining the household waste definition is to ensure residents are disposing of only genuine household waste in the city's weekly trash pickup, directing non-household waste, which is often larger, heavier, and more costly, to be disposed of at a more appropriate time and place.

3.3. Grandfathered Units Discussion / Buildings Sold No Longer Receive Service

- a. The Commission revisited a 2013 municipal ordinance change that excluded 6-8 unit residential buildings from receiving solid waste pickup services.
- b. Two property owners attended the meeting, expressing concerns about the ordinance affecting their apartment buildings in Biddeford and discussing the financial burden of private trash collection, which exceeds \$3,000 annually.
- c. They inquired about the possibility of reinstating city trash pickup for these properties, prompting a discussion on the feasibility and implications of extending services to 6+ unit residential buildings.
- d. The Commission expressed interest in the idea of expanding trash pickup to include larger tenement units but emphasized the need to assess the financial and operational impacts on the city and the Department of Public Works.
- e. Director Demers committed to providing detailed cost impact analyses at the next Commission meeting, aiming to clarify the financial implications of extending trash pickup services to larger residential units.

- f. Should the Commission favor the proposal based on the findings, the potential policy change will be recommended to the Policy Committee for in-depth discussion and possible forwarding of a formal recommendation to the City Council.

3.4. Video for Curbside Placement of Bins

- a. Member Shapiro filmed the educational video last month.
- b. The video will be published soon.

4. Other Business

- a. Director Demers shared that Biddeford's recycling program has been recognized as this year's Casella Sustainability Leadership Award Winner.
- b. Biddeford has been recognized for its significant strides in promoting recycling and sustainability. Initiatives such as tagging, auditing, and educational programs at the Recycling Center have fostered a culture of recycling and waste reduction. The city has enhanced its environmental efforts with source-separated materials and food waste collection, alongside the transition to automated trucks for trash collection, setting a commendable example for community-led environmental stewardship and efficiency.
- c. The Sustainability Leadership Award celebrates Biddeford's dedication to sustainability and serves as an encouragement for future endeavors. It provides an excellent opportunity to further engage the community, celebrate achievements, and inspire greater participation in recycling education initiatives. This recognition not only highlights past successes but also emphasizes the importance of continuous improvement in recycling practices and sustainability efforts.
- d. Commission members congratulated Director Demers and his team for their outstanding leadership and efforts over the past several years.

5. Commission Roster Changes if Needed

- a. There are two vacancies on the Commission.

6. Agenda for Next Meeting

- a. Email Chair Shapiro to request any items on a future agenda.
- b. Two topics have already been proposed: continued discussion of potential solutions for the overflow bags & grandfathered units discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.