

City of Biddeford
Recycling & Solid Waste Management Commission
January 17, 2024 6:30 PM Public Works
ZOOM:

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Jan 17, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Solid waste and Recycling

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://biddeford.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uuHLMwuTQim4ku1jwHicPg

Status:

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from December 20, 2023**
 - 2.1. Minutes December 20, 2023
[Recycling and Solid Waste Minutes 12.20.2023.pdf](#)
- 3. Discussion / Approval**
 - 3.1. Update on New Waste Trucks
 - 3.2. Automated Truck - All City Areas - Update
 - 3.3. Orange PAYT bags Update
 - 3.4. Grandfathered Units Discussion / Sold, No longer Servicing
[Citizen e-mail trash service.pdf](#)
 - 3.5. Video on Curbside Tote Placement - Reschedule
- 4. Other Business**
- 5. Commission Roster Changes - Updates if Needed**
- 6. Agenda for Next Meeting**

Recycling & Solid Waste Management Commission Minutes

December 20th, 2023 6:30 PM Meeting

1. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:51pm.
- b. Present: Members Burkett, Malon, Goodrow, Shapiro, and Ortiz. Member LaFountain arrived late.
- c. Absent: Members Tarbox and O'Driscoll.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approved unanimously.

3.1. Update - Update on New Waste Trucks

- a. One waste truck has been delivered. The next waste truck should be delivered by end of December.
- b. The trucks should be operational by end of January.
- c. Director Demers and his team are reviewing a small list of streets that may present a small challenge from automatic waste truck operations.
- d. Member Ortiz shared that an orange bag has been left inside the bin during the last fe pick-ups on Union Street.

3.2. Update on Existing Automated Waste Truck & New Route

- a. Director Demers and his team are reviewing a small list of streets that may present a small challenge from automatic waste truck operations.
- b. The department is fine-tuning its approach and aims to limit the imposition of "No Parking" restrictions.
- c. Member Ortiz shared that an orange bag has been left inside the bin during the last fe pick-ups on Union Street.

3.3. Update - 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. Various options are being considered, including directing residents to bring overflow bags to the transfer station or another specified location. As an interim solution, a staff member could follow the trucks to pick up overflow bags manually.
- c. One long-term solution could be to mandate larger containers instead of the current orange bags, though this would entail additional costs for the city of ~\$420k. Each large bin is \$460+
- d. One of the downsides of this proposals in the likely increase in tipping fee due to higher solid waste utilization from residents with larger bins.
- e. One of the upsides of this proposal is the elimination of orange bags which are particularly costly for the most economically disadvantaged residents.
- f. Member Shaprio encourages the Commission and Public Works Department to have a phased plan to help transition the community towards whichever path is determined.
- g. Member Burkett shared that the major benefit of the small bin is the lower waste usage. Member Burkett inquired if the resents could elect to keep their bin.

Director Demers indicated they could, but with the large bin being free it is unlikely many would.

- h. Member LaFountain suggested developing an incentive for residents to keep the small bin. Less waste will result in less cost for the taxpayer overall.
- i. Member Goodrow asked what would happen with excess waste in the future if orange bags were eliminated. Director Demers indicated that would depend on the direction this policy takes, but in some cases residents would have to store excess waste until they have space in their bin.
- j. Director Demers informed the Commission that excess waste still be collected during Thanksgiving and Christmas week.
- k. The Commission will continue this discussion throughout the Budget season.

3.4. Update - Composting Food Waste / New Permit Through DEP

- a. Public Works will re-submit its application to DEP.

3.5. Reschedule Video for Curbside Placement of Bins

- a. Member Shapiro will be the spokesperson for the educational video.
- b. Director Demers will direct Solid Waste Supervisor Rocco DeLuca to be in charge of video.

4. Other Business

- a. Director Demers shared that Biddeford's recycling program has become a model for other communities. Scarborough Public Works has reached out to Director Demers for advice and insight.
- b. Member LaFountain also shared that EcoMaine just received a grant for an innovative approach to recycling contamination for several municipalities in Maine; the grant description sounds very similar to the work Director Demers and his team have already built in Biddeford. This a testament to Biddeford's Public Works staff and leadership.
- c. Chair Malon suggested the Commission make a formal non-binding recommendation for the Mayor to nominate Member Shapiro as their next Chairperson of the Commission. Member Ortiz made the motion. Second by Member LaFountain. Motion passes unanimously.
- d. 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 for their service to the city. Both members, in their last meeting, also encouraged others to get involved and engaged with city government.

5. Commission Roster Changes if Needed

- a. There are four vacancies on the Commission.

6. Agenda for Next Meeting

- a. Email the Director Demers to request any items on a future agenda.
- b. Two topics have already been proposed: continued discussion of potential solutions for the overflow bags & renew conversation of requiring transfer station stickers for residents.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Demers, Jeff

From: Bennett, James
Sent: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 2:10 PM
To: Demers, Jeff; Belanger, Norman; Phinney, Brian
Cc: Grohman, Martin
Subject: RE: My properties in Biddeford on Foss Street and Main Street

As you all discuss this, keep in mind, this would be a significant additional to the tax burden to add it back to the tax base. I know of no other major community in Maine that allows large scale apartment buildings to be considered residential. I been through the issue at some language during my tenure in Westbrook 1996-2002 (this was the period of time when the policy changed in most communities in Maine. Lewiston (2002-2009) does not collect from large (4 or more) apartments. Neither does Presque Isle (2010-2015). Biddeford was the kindest of the communities by grandfather existing apartment owners. Only when the property was sold does they lose the collection rights. As I recall, we are down to less than 20 properties that have not been sold.



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City of Biddeford, Maine

From: Demers, Jeff <Jeff.Demers@Biddefordmaine.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 1:43 PM

To: Belanger, Norman <Norman.Belanger@Biddefordmaine.org>; Bennett, James <James.Bennett@Biddefordmaine.org>; Phinney, Brian <Brian.Phinney@Biddefordmaine.org>
Cc: Grohman, Martin <Martin.Grohman@Biddefordmaine.org>
Subject: RE: My properties in Biddeford on Foss Street and Main Street

Good afternoon;

I have it on the 1/17/2024 agenda for discussion with the Recycling/Solid waste commission. It's really a policy/ordinance change as you well know. I will get the commissions thoughts and send it forward for discussion.

Respectfully,

Jeff Demers
Director of Public Works/Waste Water Department
Jeff.Demers@biddefordmaine.org

371 Hill Street
Biddeford, maine 04005
Tele 207-282-1579
Fax 286-9395

From: Belanger, Norman <Norman.Belanger@Biddefordmaine.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 12:57 PM
To: Bennett, James <James.Bennett@Biddefordmaine.org>; Phinney, Brian <Brian.Phinney@Biddefordmaine.org>; Demers, Jeff <Jeff.Demers@Biddefordmaine.org>
Cc: Grohman, Martin <Martin.Grohman@Biddefordmaine.org>
Subject: FW: My properties in Biddeford on Foss Street and Main Street

Gentlemen,

I received the email below as well as numerous phone messages (we are playing telephone tag) from Maureen Verreault. She is clearly wants the issue of which residential rental properties get trash pick-up revisited. I've told her that I would check into getting the issue looked into, but that I had little hope that such a review would necessarily lead to any change. I assume the Recycling and Waste Management Commission is the appropriate body to deal with this. Let me know what would need to be done to deal with Maureen's concerns.

Thanks.

Norm

Norman R. Belanger (he/him/his)
Councilor Ward 6

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From: mo verreau <KMMSLLC@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:52 PM
To: Mills, Bobby <Bobby.Mills@Biddefordmaine.org>; Belanger, Norman <Norman.Belanger@Biddefordmaine.org>
Subject: My properties in Biddeford on Foss Street and Main Street

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the City of Biddeford email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Gentlemen,

My name is Maureen Verreault and I am co-owner of the properties at 68 Foss Street and 340 Main Street. We purchased both buildings in 2005. For the first nine years we owned the properties, the City collected our trash, as they should have. When recycling came about, we had two trash barrels and one recycle barrel at each building. Main Street is an 8-unit and Foss Street is a 6-unit. Since 2014, when the City/Council decided to cut 67 properties from their trash collection responsibilities, we were forced to obtain a private collection company for both properties. At the current cost of \$250 per month, this adds up to approximately \$27,000 out of our pocket over the past 9 years.

We did not have a large number of barrels at any time, yet apparently based merely of the number of units we had, our properties were both cut from collection by the City. Moreover, we received no credit on our tax bill from this cut in service, and instead had to pay out of our pocket each month. As I remember driving by 4-unit buildings on trash day, I saw that there were ones that had two trash barrels as well. So volumn wise, why would we be cut? We had no more waste to collect than the smaller protected buildings. To my recollection, the Council picked a random date to make the "cutoff" and we simply did not meet that "requirement". Instead, what should have been done was moving forward, whenever a building sold then the new owner would not be grandfathered and would have to seek an alternate way of collection.

I am writing to ask each of you how to go about having our situation revisited. The City certainly has seen growth in the past 9 years and has had to collect trash for additional properties throughout the City, yet we are still having to pay out of our pocket for a service that should never have been cut. We would like to be put back on the collection schedule for both properties as there is no good reason to deny us what our property tax dollars pay for.

We would be happy to have a conversation with each of you to hopefully get this issue resolved for us. My number is 207-671-5121. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from each of you.

Maureen