



BATH
MAINE *City of Ships*

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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Bath Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Meeting of April 24, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Susan Bauer, Lee Leiner, Paul Perkins, Megan Pryor, Lou Ricciardone, George Sprague
Members Absent: Elizabeth Dingley
Guests: Rod Melanson

Agenda:

- Recycling collection at multi-family properties
- Problem of wipes in sewers
- Participation in Bath Welcome Nights
- Food waste challenge

Lee described the problem of wipes in the sewers. They do not break down like TP and cause clogs in pipes and damage pumps. Susan said one of the goals identified by the City Council for this year is to educate the community about the wipes issue and hopefully reduce the occurrence of issues. She suggested a commercial campaign with the slogan “No wipe is safe to flush – ever”. There was a suggestion to supply small trash cans to households that use wipes, similar to the small kitchen bins typically used for collecting food scraps for composting. Included would be messaging to substitute reusable products for the throw-away wipes. The larger message is to increase awareness of solid waste generation and to reduce it. The question was asked if grocery stores could/would put warning signs or educational messages on the shelves next to wipe products. Lee stated that public works has created an informational flyer that gets mailed with sewer bills and that those flyers have had several wipe-related messages. There was a suggestion to create online versions of the flyers for those customers paying online. Finally that the City create web pages and social media posts related to wipes.

Next was a discussion about participation in Bath Welcome Nights. The committee members could create a board to be displayed on an easel. Then members could attend the welcome night events and use the board to initiate conversation with new Bath residents about solid waste and recycling issues.

The committee would like to have Gabrielle Browne, the City’s new communication specialist revisit the backyard composting survey, restart messaging to those residents who got a free composter, and supply a summary the collected data to the committee for reporting back to Maine DEP.

Next was a discussion about recycling in multi-family properties. Questions included how best to approach property owners, what options exist for collections, how could each property fit into the City’s collection program, what difficulties exist that may be different at each property, how many properties are included and how many people live in those properties. Lee will generate a list so that owners can be surveyed about their level of interest. George will talk with Bath Housing about their various multi-family properties.

Finally there was discussion of the Food Waste Challenge. George challenged the committee members to start measuring their own food waste. The goal is to figure out how much food each person wastes in one week. This

effort should include only wasted food and not all food scraps destined for the compost bin. If the committee can successfully demonstrate the effort, it could be expanded to include the City Council. George will send guidance to committee members

Next meeting: 5 PM Monday June 26, 2023

Note: The committee will plan to meet the fourth Monday of each month at 5 PM