

FIWMD
MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2017 @ 5:00 PM
FI COMMUNITY CENTER
MINUTES

Gregory Thibodeau, Chair
Sarah Malinowski, Secretary
John Patterson, Treasurer
Bruce Hubert

Greg Thibodeau called the monthly meeting to order at 5:00 pm. All commissioners were present.

Addition to the agenda: replace resigned commissioner Rob Goodwin for the remainder of the year.

Tim Patterson motioned to accept the minutes of September 25, 2017, Bruce Hubert seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Public Comments

Annette Tourangeau, Mere Doyen, Harry Parker, Bob Evans, Ellen Parker and Pierce Rafferty attended the meeting and all contributed to a lively and thoughtful conversation.

Harry Parker stated that, in spite of the value of our project, it is not doing well in the court of public opinion. He suggested we reboot our effort and engage the 6 or 7 people who oppose the project. FIWMD should answer the questions that have been raised and at the same time remind folks that communities have capital costs and in our case, there are real costs to not doing this project; spell these costs out. Harry pointed out that safety issues, for one thing, must be addressed quickly. FIWMD should convince critics that the need is undeniable.

Bob Evans asked the Commissioners if there was going to be a public vote on the project. Greg Thibodeau answered that there would be a public meeting. Harry Parker added: Fishers Island is a hard place to win a popularity contest. If the Community Center or Rec Path had been put to a vote, they would have been voted down.

Harry suggested that FIWMD should demand an endorsement from the ICB, Conservancy and Museum. Also, Louisa Evans (Town Rep) has to declare what she wants. She needs to put in writing the reasons she opposes the project. End gossip by demanding endorsement or not. Most islanders are in favor of environmental protection; use that. Get letters of support from the Long Island Sound Study, form Guardians of the Sound and other environmental groups. Harry also pointed out that no one from FIWMD has stepped into Wayne Doucette's role of competent salesperson for the project. We need to appoint someone to fill that role who can present the project more effectively to the public.

Bob Evans asked if we had scrutinized all the financials, for example do we know whether or not it is more costly for homeowners to rinse out their jars individually than it would be for FIWMD to wash them out for the homeowners.

Ellen Parker stated that California residents prove that the public can be educated and are willing to participate in reducing their waste.

Pierce Rafferty came to the meeting to address FIWMD's status as lead agent on the project. He read part of an email Bill Duffy, Southold Town Attorney, had written to him a few minutes prior to the meeting. The gist of the email indicated that Mr. Duffy did not think FIWMD should

be the lead agent. There was a back and forth on this topic, which resulted in the tabling of a Resolution of Lead Agency Designation (which the commissioner's attorney had prepared) to a later meeting. The desire is for this to be resolved to the benefit of the community. The intention is to follow proper procedure, not endanger the project.

Harry Parker reminded the group that it is common to use the public purse to advance the public good. FIWMD should show the public how their vision of combined stations is a part of the whole fort area. Allies of this project need to be allies, not enemies. The Yale plan was extremely visionary. FIWMD should keep that in mind as they initiate a plan for this end of the island.

Alan Thibodeau presented the following:

OPERATIONS REPORT OCT. 2017

COMPOST PILES –

All piles have been flipped. Upon doing research, the piles have been modified for better rain collection. I've also researched information and put together a booklet of information from the Cornell Waste Management Institute, which has been very helpful with understanding composting and how to make our system work better.

I received a number of samples for compostable trash bags. I am currently testing a sample on the back side of Pile #3. The bags are made to compost in 180 days; started on Oct. 12th. Will keep everyone updated.

HAULS –

For the month of October to the 23rd, there have been 6 hauls.

The following is a breakdown of hauls per type:

Bottles and Cans – 2

MSW – 2

Paper – 0

Bulky - 1

Metal – 0

Wood – 1

Cardboard – 0

LANDFILL –

The landfill is in good shape and will try and mow in late spring before the "weeds" start to get a head start.

WILDERNESS ROAD –

Plan to start trimming the trees tomorrow; weather permitting.

BRUSH GRINDER –

Waiting to make repairs to the belt. It suffered damage when a ball hitch was discarded in the pile. Two teeth also need to be replaced. Greg had us order a metal detector so we can scan the piles as they are dumped, and also as we are grinding.

GLASS GRINDER –

We continue to pull bottles from the dumpsters and process them. We've had a few jams, but the machine is fairly simple to take apart and repair. Just the small amount that we are processing does seem to be making a difference.

Attached is pricing for 13 gallon totes to be handed out to the public for use with

separating glass. I recommend Recycle Away. They have the best pricing and it includes a custom stamp on the totes.

I've drafted a letter to be sent out notifying the island of our intentions to separate glass. I would like to start on Jan. 1st.

STATIONS –

Transfer Station – Everything is working fine. We will be rearranging the lower deck to make room for the 4 yard glass dumpsters.

Compost Station – We have been working on cleaning the stumps from the northwest edge of the property. A large quantity of logs and stumps have been buried over the years. We will be working on grading the edges from there to the southwest edge, including the Knotweed area. We are hoping this will allow us to better maintain this area and combat the knotweed.

EQUIPMENT –

All machines have been serviced and a number of minor repairs have been made. All lawn equipment has been winterized and put away in the Transfer Station shed.

A welder has been ordered. Should be here in the next week. Repairs will be made to the teeth on the grinder and to the forks for the front loader.

TRAINING –

I would like to schedule the training and testing of the employees for Freon removal. The certification would be on Tuesday, January 30th. The material and certification is \$200 per person.

I am currently working to get an on-site training for Compost Technician I. I have contacted the US Composting Council for cost and availability.

Talked to a new contact with the DEC; she recommended we attend the NYSAR Annual Recycling conference in New York on Nov. 7 – 9. The cost is \$175 per person for the conference and the hotel is \$150 per night.

The Compost 2018, a national compost conference, is January 22 – 25. The cost is \$475 per person, hotel is \$169 per night, and airfare around \$171. Great information for Commissioners dealing with all aspects of composting, including how to market and sell to outside sources. Also, a vast number of vendors.

I am also looking into online classes through Forester University. They offer a series of live and on-demand webinars, webcasts and classes. These would be perfect so that employees can work at their own pace during downtimes at the stations. I'm trying to see if we can get a group rate.

He also presented quotes to purchase totes for island homeowners as follows:

BIDS FOR 13 GALLON TOTES

(order quantity of 650)

Recycle Away	\$6247.86
(includes pricing for stamp)	
ReStockit	\$6936.60
Global Industrial	\$6943.85

Tim Patterson motioned to accept the quoted price from Recycle Away, Bruce Hubert seconded; the motion carried.

Tim Patterson motioned to allow Alan to attend the conference mentioned above (NYSAR Annual Recycling conference in New York on Nov. 7 – 9. The cost is \$175 per person for the conference and the hotel is \$150 per night) Sarah Malinowski seconded; the motion carried.

Finances The financial reports were reviewed. **Bruce Hubert motioned to transfer fifty thousand dollars to pay the payables, Tim Patterson seconded; the motion carried.**

Unfinished Business Included Beth reporting that FIWMD is eligible for the NY State Retirement Fund and that she is further researching the opportunity.

New Business There was discussion about Wellness Days vs. Sick Days in the employee handbook. The discussion will continue at the next monthly meeting.

There was a discussion about whether or not to appoint someone to fill the resigned position of Rob Goodwin until December 31, 2017. Being that there are only two months left of the year it was decided not to appoint someone. The position will be filled at the next election on December 12, 2017, the position to commence January 1, 2018.

Tim Patterson motioned to rescind a resolution made at June 26, 2017 meeting as follows:

RESOLUTION FOR LEAD AGENCY DESIGNATION

WHEREAS, the Fishers Island Waste Management District (FIWMD) is a special district established by the Town of Southold in 1952 (then known as the “Fishers Island Refuse and Garbage District”) for the purpose of providing solid waste handling and management to the residents and businesses of Fishers Island, and the FIWMD performs this function at two separate properties on Fishers Island -- a transfer station located on Town of Southold-owned land at 58 Town Road and a compost station and receiving facility located on FIWMD-owned land at 2760 Whistler Avenue;

WHEREAS, the leased area for the transfer station is 1.44± acres, and such facility has existed since 1991. The compost station and receiving facility is located on a 9.33± acre-parcel, which has been used for waste management activities since 1987; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Fishers Island Waste Management District (Board of Commissioners) is proposing the relocation of the transfer station operation to the compost station and receiving facility (hereinafter, the “subject property”) for the purpose of allowing the FIWMD to manage its services and operations on one site. Also being proposed are site improvements for the purposes of modernizing its current operations, implementing necessary safety and security upgrades, and installing drainage infrastructure (hereinafter, the “proposed action”); and

WHEREAS, as part of the proposed action, the Board of Commissioners is proposing to add to the property it owns (and uses) by entering into a lease for a small portion of land owned by the Town of Southold. The proposed lease is for 2.7± acres of land that currently includes the site access, the internal paved driveway, attendant shed, concrete pad and portions of the receiving area. In exchange for the lease of 2.7± acres of land from the Town of Southold, the FIWMD would lease an area of approximately 1.27± acres at the northern extent of the subject property to the Town as such area contains a Town-operated sewer pump station; and

WHEREAS, upon implementation of the proposed action, the transfer station would cease operations and lease terminated at 58 Town Road; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.4 and §617.5, the Board of Commissioners reviewed the proposed action and has preliminarily determined that same is an Unlisted Action; and WHEREAS, pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617, coordinated review of an Unlisted Action is optional, and was not undertaken by the Board of Commissioners; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby designates itself as lead agency pursuant to the implementing regulations of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, specifically 6 NYCRR §617.6(b)(4), with respect to the above-described proposed action.

Sarah Malinowski seconded the motion; the motion carried.

The commission reviewed a proposed resolution of Lead Agency Designation. Meanwhile, Pierce Rafferty (member of the public) read an email he received from the Town Attorney (Mr. Duffy) stating in short that the District can not designate itself as lead agency (see public comments). It was stated by Gregory Thibodeau that it was on the recommendation of the District's attorney to pass the resolution in order to move the project along. The commission decided to hold off on adopting the resolution until further information is gathered from its attorney.

The commissions expressed gratitude to Beth Stern for the time and effort that she contributed to the SEQRA report.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.