

**TOWN OF OLD ORCHARD BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL & RECYCLING COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
April 28, 2009**

Chair Sharri MacDonald honored the request of the Recycling Committee to meet with them on issues of recycling on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Chambers.

The following were in attendance:

**Chair Sharri MacDonald
Councilor Robin Dayton
Councilor Mike Tousignant
Councilor Laura Bolduc
Councilor Shawn O'Neill
Town Manager Stephen Gunty
Assistant Town Manager V. Louise Reid
Chairman John Bird – Recycling Committee
John Weaver
Fred Dolgon
Jacqui Deveneau
Chris Hudson
Suzanne Scalise
Jetta Antonakos**

Absent: Bill Farley

Chair Sharri MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. John Bird, Chairman of the Recycling Committee, presented the following timeline for discussion and reviewed the various aspects:

Draft Recycling Committee Timeline

MAY - Formal recommendation from the Recycling Committee on Direction to take and implementation. Work on overall RFP to continue.

JUNE - Weekly Recycling Pickup to start. Heavy local positive advertising & publicity re: Recycling & new recycling pickup policy. Distribution of Recycling literature and LABELS to each Residential MSW pickup. Thereafter, to be available free @ Town Hall.

JULY – Continue with publicity. Separate accounting for Municipal Solid Waste to be set up. Notice to be printed on tax bill. Possible wording:

“Last year, 3.6% (or whatever it was) of your property taxes went to provide Solid Waste (trash and recycling) pickup and disposal. Since the Town is changing to a new, fairer and more responsible system which will encourage more recycling this Fall, called PAY TO THROW – RECYCLE TO SAVE, this year's tax bill includes only one-quarter of that or about 0.8% (or whatever)to fund operations until then. Next year the cost of Solid

Waste disposal will not be included in your property taxes since it will be separately funded and accounted for by the new system.”

After tax bills go out, more publicity on Recycling and explanation of the new program.

AUGUST - Continue with publicity. RFP to go out for complete new program. To include Bidding Options (May be combined into one offer or bid separately) and Conditions:

Options – Trash Pickup and Delivery to MERC

- Recyclables Pickup and Delivery**
- Recyclables Disposal (separate pricing for commercial for Town)**
- Transfer Station?**
- Contractor funded and implemented education?**

Conditions (Partial) - All trash must be in OOB bags to be picked up. Not to be picked up if not in bag. OOB responsible ONLY for bagged trash as MSW

- Trash & recyclables may NOT be mixed!**
- OOB & outside trash and/or recyclables may NOT be mixed!.**
- Title to recyclables to remain with Town until disposed of**
- Detailed, defined weekly reports to be sent to the Town on pick up & disposal of both trash & recyclables.**

END OF SEPTEMBER – Last pickup w/o bags – 2 free bags and literature to be left at each pickup. After that, bags to be available for sale at the Town Hall, stores, Transfer Station, etc.

OCTOBER - No more MSW to be picked up, transported to MERC or paid for by the Town unless bagged.

It should be also noted that Chairman Bird presented an alternate timelines with some changes to scheduling, dates and responsibilities.

Everyday we use products made from recycled material. Recycling builds a stronger economy and a cleaner environment. During the discussions it was mentioned that recycling technology has become more sophisticated, resulting in a variety of convenient, user-friendly programs. Recycling is becoming easier than ever. Single source recycling is one of the results. Recycling is viewed as resource management and not waste management. Recycling provides valuable materials for manufacturers and is essential to a sustainable future. It was pointed out that the more we recycle at home and work, the more we reduce our reliance on land filling and incineration. Every ton of waste that we recycle reduces the threat of groundwater contamination and landfill leach ate; reduces the problems associated with incinerator ash disposal and stack emissions and reduces the need for additional disposal capacity in our community. Recycling saves energy and reduces waste and pollution.

A request was made throughout the evening for direction from the Council as to how they are to proceed further as it relates to the upcoming RFP. It was the direction of the Council that the preparation of the RFP is the responsibility of the Department of Public Works but repeatedly recommended by Council members that the Recycling Committee

have the opportunity to meet with the Public Works Director and review the draft RFP and make their recommendations accordingly. The Town Manager was requested to prepare an update for the Council by this coming Friday as to where the RFP schedule is at the present time.

There was a wide discussion on the types of programs that should be considered for both trash and recycling pickup. Discussion of some statistics relating to the cost of the recycling programs continued as well as the type of containers that would be used for both trash and recycling pickup. The main discussion was around the Pay for Bag program and then the automated containers that are used in Saco at the present time. The cost factor obviously is a consideration. The continued and further use of the Transfer Station was also mentioned. There obviously was a dedicated commitment to recycling not only from the “save the earth” effort but also from a philosophical and educational aspect as well.

Several times the mention of no solid statistics makes it difficult to come up with comparisons and cost factors. The Council made it clear that they need to have some basis for financial consideration and cost commitment as we are in the middle of the budget process. Locations of containers and liability issues were raised as well. A great deal of time was spent on discussion of the need for ordinance changes and some discussion as well on which comes first – the commitment to a contract – or the ordinance changes to facilitate the new type of waste management. Along with the budget constraints the commitment of some members of the Council not to raise taxes is another area of concern.

Discussion on how to get the educational message out was extensive and the need for funding to do this was also a request of the Recycling Committee. Again, this is something that will be considered in the budget process. The amount that was suggested was \$15,000 for Council consideration. Discussion on the silver bullet and where a good placement would be including possible town land availability. Although the commodity markets for recyclables have been at historically low returns, there are creative ways to look at collection and receiving of curbside materials.

The theme for the evening was collaboration between the Public Works Department and the Recycling Committee in the review of the RFP which will be written by the DPW; encouragement to the Recycling Committee to continue developing a full education program geared to both adults and youngsters through the school system. Discussion to continue on possible mailing options for notices and information. Again the request was made for fast tracking the ability to provide some sort of financial speculation as to the cost of the bag should that be determined the program in which to be developed. Concerns were definitely expressed as to how we pay for this program.

Since each Maine community determines its own system for managing waste, it is imperative that our study produce the best program for our community based on its needs and the requirements that must be met. Suggested ways to keep our Town clean were provided in a pricing and product brochure as well as a suggested brochure which was carefully and tastefully done.

Chair MacDonald and Council Members expressed appreciation to the Committee for their work and commitment to move ahead with what is primary in the goal setting of this Council.

The Recycling Committee and the Town Council Workshop ended at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

**V. Louise Reid
Town Council Secretary**

I, V. Louise Reid, Secretary to the Town Council of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, do hereby certify that the foregoing document consisting of four (4) pages is a true copy of the original Minutes of the Workshop held on April 28, 2009.

V. Louise Reid