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TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Andy Garman, Deputy Town Manager
DATE: July 30, 2020
SUBJECT: Consideration of Charge for and Appointments to the Reuse and Recycle Task Force

The Board would like to establish a task force focused on waste reduction initiatives. These initiatives would promote the reuse of materials, reduced consumption, and diversion of materials from the waste stream. They would also focus on the proper and responsible handling of materials by the consumer as well as the town or the town's contractors. Although there are policies in the town's comprehensive plan and solid waste plan related to waste management and waste reduction goals, these need to be reviewed in light of changing market conditions, available resources, current practices, and community needs and desires. The task force could provide research and recommendations to inform the town's waste reduction efforts and provide leadership as it relates to this important community need and government function. Although this discussion began with a focus on the town's curbside recycling program, Nags Head recognizes that recycling is only one facet of waste reduction and is often cited as the last of the three R's, Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Many communities have expanded this list and also identify "Refuse" and "Rot" which illustrate the need for a broader focus when discussing waste reduction. Individual effort as it relates to responsible product and consumption choices and programs focused on composting or removing food waste from the waste stream are important components of this conversation. Therefore, community education and a multi-faceted approach becomes critical for a successful and comprehensive waste reduction program. Attention should also be paid to the life cycle of materials to ensure that expenditures related to collection and processing have legitimate benefits as opposed to landfilling and incineration.

To get this process started, the Board will need to appoint members to the task force. Staff would recommend no more than an eight person citizen task force with support from staff. The board has a list of 13 individuals who have expressed interest in the task force which summarizes their background and interests. Although staff has no specific recommendation on members, the task force members should represent a broad spectrum of town interests, including business,

institutional, government and academia. There are several individuals listed whose background and interests align well with the following tasks. During this process, staff would expect to bring in individuals from industry, NC DENR, or other local governments who can provide information to the task force and/or discuss opportunities for collaboration.

It is anticipated that the first assignment of the task force would be to review and recommend goals for Nags Head community waste reduction efforts. This would involve a review of existing goals from adopted plans and policies. Other items for the task force could include:

- Establish a planning framework to review the town's waste reduction efforts
- Evaluate existing town recycling and waste reduction programs to understand community needs and desired service levels; provide cost effective recommendations to enhance these services
- Define metrics for cost effectiveness and service quality related to waste reduction and disposal initiatives; this could include a cost-benefit analysis of curbside vs. distributed collection/disposal options
- Identify new programs to remove materials from the waste stream including food waste, household hazardous waste, etc.; review the use of distributed town recycling drop off sites and recommend service enhancements
- Identify high return recycling activities that could be enhanced such as commercial collection of pre-sorted materials
- Review the current limitations of single-stream recycling programs and provide research on the state of the industry; provide recommendations for future efforts that align with anticipated recycling industry changes
- Determine local and regional capacity to support reuse, reduction and recycling programs; identify gaps that need further policy level support or regional collaboration; this also includes review of available private sector resources that are available to the town
- Identify local, regional, or state partnerships that support the goals of the task force and the town
- Develop and implement progressive educational programming aimed at reducing waste and promoting reuse, recycling, and consumer education on consumption
- Develop education campaigns that improve recycling participation and minimize contamination

Staff welcomes feedback on the suggested work items for the task force. It is anticipated that the task force would meet at least monthly through the early part of 2021 in order to have recommendations to the Board prior to consideration of the FY 2021/22 budget.