



DRAFT MINUTES
TOWN OF NAGS HEAD
WASTE REDUCTION TASK FORCE MEETING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2020; 9:00 A.M.
BOARD ROOM

Members Present David Bragg (in person); Kari Bakus, Meredith Fish, and Ann Daisey (via Zoom platform)

Members Absent Robert Netsch

Others Present Interim Town Manager Greg Sparks; Dep Town Manager Andy Garman; Public Information Officer Roberta Thuman; Town Clerk Carolyn Morris; and Nags Head resident Brian Taylor (all in person)

Matt James (NC DEQ) and Tad Phillips (Tidewater Fibre Corporation) (via Zoom platform)

Welcome

Dep Town Manager Andy Garman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves: Task Force members: David Bragg, Kari Bakus, Meredith Fish, and Ann Daisey; Matt James of NC DEQ; Tad Phillips of Tidewater Fibre Corporation; Brian Taylor; Greg Sparks; Andy Garman; Roberta Thuman; and Carolyn Morris

Discussion with Tad Phillips, Tidewater Fibre Corporation (TFC) Recycling

Tad Phillips of Tidewater Fibre Corporation Recycling provided the following report: Tidewater Fibre Corporation Recycling instituted one of the first recycling programs in the 1970's; now they service over 600,000 homes to include the Town of Duck; they are currently losing money because of reliance on the Chinese government; Starting in 2021 China will no longer be accepting scrap materials; this year there was a "perfect storm" of bad business issues which resulted in a change to their business policy as they no longer make enough to cover their costs. However, they are still working and picking up curbside recycling but they now have to charge more. They are still selling to some markets.

In response to a question from Mr. Bragg, Mr. Phillips said that contamination is built into their prices - cleaning of the materials is done by the company for recyclables but not for trash. Mr. Phillips said that other countries are very strict re: standards for exported items. He reported that cans are sold to the US, glass goes to Wilmington, North Carolina; plastic goes to mills in North Carolina for making bags, etc; fiber (cardboard) can be recycled seven times and is very profitable; glass items go to Wilson, North Carolina.

In response to a question from Ann Daisey, Mr. Phillips said that they partner with Recycle Partnership to educate the public and they have one outreach employee that does only that.

Ms. Daisey left the meeting at 9:55 a.m. for a work obligation.

Discussion with Matt James NC DEQ, Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service

Matt James of NC DEQ, Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service, stated that his job is to help maintain a large supply of recycle materials in North Carolina and southeast Virginia and to increase demands for recycling; he is aware recycling will always lose out but recycling is more than just cost per ton. Communities are eligible for up to \$35,000 for recycling purposes.

Mr. Bragg questioned why the State wasn't pushing more toward recycling in the commercial sector rather than the residential side rather than placement in landfill.

Mr. James provided this web site (www.epa.gov/warm) as a waste reduction model (WARM) to help organizations track emissions reductions, energy savings, etc. Mr. James also noted that the State has several employees that can speak with the Task Force.

Ms. Fish noted that some items in nature won't decompose in a landfill as well as being recycled; Mr. James stated that the true value of recycling is reducing the initial impact of destruction.

Member Discussion

Dep Manager Garman said that the Task Force may get more into metrics at the next meeting - Facilities Maintenance Supervisor Mike Norris should be available to provide information from the commercial side and where it can be worked on more. He stated further that he would like to do a Request For Proposal (RFP) for a subscription service just so it is understood what the costs will be in a variety of types of pickups. More information is needed in order to move forward. It doesn't have to be all or nothing – there are several options that can be considered in order to share the costs.

Ms. Bakus questioned how the Town of Duck model is priced out and how their volume compares to Nags Head. Mr. Garman responded that the Town of Duck is paying the contract outright - subscribers are not paying for the service. She is concerned that the subscription may be a set up to fail and would not alleviate the problem. She asked about partnering with other Towns. Staff is to provide Town of Duck information for comparison.

Mr. James stated that he will be able to provide data from all communities in North Carolina which he will be happy to distribute - he also asked that his contact information be shared for anyone interested.

Meeting Schedule

Dep Town Manager Andy Garman said that he will poll Task Force members for the next meeting date.

Adjournment

The Task Force adjourned at 10:43 a.m.