

Solid Waste Report ~ 2009

Prices for recyclable goods started the year very low, in fact they were below zero on some items. All material prices were below long-term average levels. However, as the year progressed prices recovered somewhat. The net effect on our income was a reduction from last year's \$180,286 to \$175,491. This was in spite of the increase in total shipments of recyclable materials from 438 tons to 484 tons, an increase of 10.5%. Operating expenses at \$279,749 were under budget of \$289,483. Proposed operating expenses for 2010 are about the same as for 2009.



Outlets for a number of recyclables were developed during the year. We now take vegetable oil, electrical wire and plastic bags. A fee schedule was published for bulky waste and recyclables that need special handling like white goods, fluorescent tubes and electronic items. The Walpole Grocery and Agway were added to the locations where Walpole Bags may be purchased for solid waste.

After approval at Town Meeting, we purchased a new Bob-Cat through Pinnacleview who provided a back stop for the fork-lift and will provide a free loaner when ours is in there for service. With the municipal discount, the trade in for the old Bobcat and a grant from New Hampshire the Beautiful, the \$37,863 cost was reduced to \$14,960. Our truck, which is used to pick up recyclables at the schools and other places, do some plowing and other chores, needed substantial repairs and needs to be replaced. Our landfill storage shed, which suffered major damage from last winter's snow loads, was replaced, paid for by insurance. Supports are being put under the storage trailer roofs so that snow will not damage them.

In May, after investigation by the WRAP Committee, Planet Aid installed a box for clean, useable clothes and shoes. Demand was high enough that they soon put in a larger box. An oil shed to improve our motor oil recycling activities was built at the north end of the Center. Costs were covered by grants from the New Hampshire Oil Grant Fund. As reported in the December 4th WRAP Committee Report in the River Record, Recycling Volunteers provided labor and some parts. That report also thanked other Volunteers who did things or gave things during the year over and above their normal recycling activities, a matter greatly appreciated. In November a used down-stroke baler was given to us by Mr. G. At year-end it was being wired up and lock-out procedures, like those on our other balers to avoid injury when repairs are underway, completed.

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In August we started sending our solid waste to Claremont where the tipping fee is \$78 per ton compared to the \$95 per ton we have been paying at Brattleboro. Going to Claremont will save \$10,000 to \$11,000 a year. Because our hauler's operations are based in Claremont, he will hold our compactor box thus saving the return trip cost each week. We will need a new compactor box as an overflow or spare for when the existing compactor box is being repaired. The payout for its \$6,000 cost will be fast.

Paul Clark was out for a back operation in early March. He returned to normal duties in April. Joe Dion was appointed to the WRAP Committee by the Selectmen in March for a term ending in March 2011. Except for Paul Colburn, the Staff attended the Northeast Recycling Recovery Association meeting in early July. In August, Gregory Given was appointed Recycling Attendant by the Selectmen to replace Ann Marie Estes who left her job. Tyler Campbell was the Hooper Volunteer this year. He did a commendable job. Our Volunteers, both at the Recycling Center and the Reuse Center, which was open from April to mid December, are the heart of our operations and have earned this Special Thanks.

Selectmen and Town Staff have once again been helpful on various matters and for this we thank them.

Respectfully submitted,

George Watkins,
Chairman, WRAP Committee

