

**Town of New Salem
Board of Health
Minutes for March 6, 2024
Meeting Held virtually via Zoom**

Zoom Meeting ID: 886-4128-1578

Attendance: Jenny Potee, Chair, Patrick Temple, Lynn Layton, member(s), Board of Health;

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm

Determination on a Return Date for Metal & Demo Containers to the Transfer Station

Jenny reported she's spoken with Jan Ameen as of yesterday. We just need to provide 1-2 days' notice to get the containers back. Patrick asked what the normal return date would be. Lynn recalled they usually returned in mid-March. Jenny concurred with that recollection noting that it's usually late March or very early April. Patrick submitted the weather is mild and people are more likely to be active.

Lynn made a motion to have return the metal and demo containers return the Saturday, March 16, 2024. The motion was seconded by Jenny and passed without objection.

Discussion Regarding Report of Roadside Trash Found in New Salem

Jenny and Lynn then recounted finding a bag of recycling and paper that had ended up on her property. Jenny reported it appeared to drift across the street to the neighbors. Her husband went through the trash, found a letter who identified the person and returned it to their house. Subsequently another piece of mail was found on the side of the road. Lynn then recounted finding some Styrofoam on the roadside. There was then discussion regarding Board action on the identifiable person and what its ability to fine would be. Lynn suggested not necessarily attempting direct action as that family is aware from neighbors of the issue. Further she's seen nothing like that from them since. It was agreed to put out a public statement for the New Salem News requesting people to better secure their trash and recycling during transport.

A motion was made by Lynn to authorize the drafting of an article for the New Salem News to direct the residents of the town to be more careful in securing recycling and trash being transported to the Transfer Station or elsewhere. The motion was seconded by Jenny and passed without objection.

Spring Clean-Up (Earth Day)

Jenny reported that in the past various events and activities have been sponsored by the Board of Health. This including helping hand out supplies like gloves and bags. Other ideas have included giving bags or tags free if they bring in a substantial amount of trash collected. Lynn suggested one for one. One bag, one sticker. That kind of rewards more people and encourages participation by a broader base of people. Jenny suggested Earth Day which is in April. Lynn noted it's April 22. Which is a Monday. Jenny suggested scheduling it for Saturday, April 20, 2024. Patrick clarified that this applies to just one day. Lynn responded it would. She also submitted that the best plan is to let people use their own bags too. Jenny put forward the idea of some promotion. Lynn suggested an article to be published in local newspapers that wouldn't be run as an ad. It was agreed Lynn would draft something and send it to Jenny for proofing.

Lynn made a motion to sponsor a town wide clean up that would involve bringing trash collected from the streets in garbage style trash bags to the Transfer Station and for each bag they receive one free sticker for the Transfer Station. The motion was seconded by Patrick and passed unanimously.

Update on the Gate at the Transfer Station

Jenny reported that two experts were consulted, and a welder came out to assess the structure. The gate has since been repaired. The cost was about a third cheaper than entirely replacing the gate. Total cost was \$820. Took about 5 and a half hours. They placed an 8-inch plate and made a few other small alterations to reinforce it.

Miscellaneous Items

Jake reported on the need for someone to attend a meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss the Board of Health's budget pertaining to wages. There is a deficit in the Transfer Station wages due to the requirements of raising the wages in the last few years to attract suitable candidates to the jobs. The department has offset the resulting overages from its regular expense line. But with inflation, this is not sustainable over time. General expenses can certainly be level funded, but wages need to be addressed. It was agreed that Jake would be authorized to meet with the Finance Committee to discuss the department's budget. Jenny then went over some materials from FCSWMD which includes items that the Board can procure. Obviously not free, but we can use RDP Funds. We can also purchase signs either for replacement or for new ones. Transfer Station always needs new signs. Patrick clarified if we would buy items and then sell them. Jenny responded in the past we've done welcome packets. Given to new residents after they buy their first permit and set of stickers for the Transfer Station. The idea being to encourage things like recycling and composting. There was then some discussion regarding how many composting pails and recycling bins to buy and whether they should be sold or given away. It was generally agreed we should order them and make a further determination later. Lynn suggested a particular sign be replaced. It was agreed this can go on the next agenda.

A motion was made by Lynn to authorize Jake to fill out and return any forms necessary of the budget process to the Finance Committee and to meet with them, if necessary, to explain the needed changes. The motion was seconded by Jenny and passed without objection.

A motion was made by Jenny to authorize buying 25 recycling bins and 25 kitchen composting pails using RPD funds. The motion was seconded by Patrick and passed without objection.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 7:13 pm was made by Jenny and seconded by Lynn. The motion passed without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jake K. Voelker, JD
Interim Board of Health Clerk