

Town of Onalaska
Refuse and Recycling Committee Meeting
Tuesday, August 29, 2017

The Refuse/Recycling committee meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at the Town of Onalaska Town Hall, N5589 Commerce Road, Onalaska, WI. Members present were Committee Chair Frank Fogel, committee members James Burch, Stan Hauser, Sara Kessler, Josh Storandt and Steve Wage. Harry Helfrich was absent.

Motion to approve the agenda by Hauser; seconded by Kessler. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve the minutes of the July 25, 2017 meeting. Motion by Burch and seconded by Hauser to approve the July 25, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion passed with Kessler abstaining.

Public Comment. Stan Olson, W6771 Sugar Lane, Onalaska, WI told the committee that he was happy with the new refuse and recycling cart system. He asked if there could be more definitions of what can be recycled—for example, could a pizza box with food remnants be recycled?

Yard Waste Report. Jim Burch reviewed the data collection from the opening date in late March through July 31 2017. There have been 2287 total visits to the site and approximately 25% of all Town households have used the site at least once this season.

Discussion on discontinuing brush drop off following the 2017 season. Fogel reported that with the usage of brush drop offs at the site, the brush becomes unwieldy to feed into the chipping machine as the branches become entangled. It is evident, based on volunteer staffing reports that certain residents are taking advantage of the brush drop off service and bringing in fresh brush weekly, and sometimes multiple loads. The brush drop off site is only meant for branch blow downs and minor trimmings, not clear-cutting of many trees or removal of trees. Motion to open the floor by Wage; seconded by Hauser. Motion passed unanimously. Resident Stan Olson reminded the committee that at one time the chipper was set up at the site and the brush was chipped simultaneously as residents dropped it off, thus potentially avoiding the large pile and entanglement issues. Motion by Hauser; seconded by Storandt to close the floor. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Kessler; seconded by Hauser to recommend to the Board that the Town discontinue brush drop off at the Town drop off site following the 2017 season. Motion passed 5-1, Storandt dissented.

Discussion on brush pile at Yard Waste Site. The Town crew has been instructed to devote two days per week to chip the brush pile at the Yard Waste Site until the pile is gone. No action taken.

Discussion on curbside brush service including dates of service for 2018. Motion by Kessler and seconded by Storandt to recommend monthly curbside chipping from March 1

through November 30, 2018 on regularly scheduled routes each month. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on curbside brush service including dates of service for 2018. Motion by Burch and seconded by Kessler to recommend defining curbside pile specifications as: pile no more than 3' tall, no more than 6' long, no larger than 6" diameter pieces, neatly stacked with one pile per household monthly. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on Christmas tree drop off for 2018. Motion by Wage and seconded by Storandt to recommend accepting Christmas tree drop off at the Town shop Monday-Friday during shop hours during the second week of January, 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on hours of operation for yard waste i.e. grass and leaves for 2018. Motion by Burch, seconded by Kessler to recommend Tuesday 11:30-3:30, Thursday, 3:30-7:30, Saturday 8-4, discontinuing Thursday hours beginning the second week of October until the service ends for the season. Discussion on motion: Thursday hours won't be feasible after mid-October as daylight time is reduced and there are no lights at the site. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on wood chip disposal. Motion by Hauser and seconded by Burch to recommend making a chip pile available to Town residents to pick up at the Yard Waste Site during Yard Waste site hours at no cost, or have it delivered at a cost of \$25 per dump truck load delivered at the Town's discretion as time permits. Discussion: Fogel reports that there is interest from a local business to purchase wood chips from the Town and it is better to sell what we can instead of paying to have it removed. Purchases would be coordinated through the Clerk's office and residents would be billed for the service. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Storandt; seconded by Kessler. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sara Kessler.