

## ClerkOffice

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**From:** Ted <pietzi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 1, 2020 10:26 AM  
**To:** ClerkOffice  
**Cc:** Paul Barandiaran  
**Subject:** [\*EXTERNAL\*] [Portsmouth SWRC] correspondence to the Town Council  
**Attachments:** Recycling\_MEETING\_MINUTES-2019-09-11 approved\_19OCT2019.pdf; Comprehensive Community Plan (Inputs)\_SWRC\_01AUG2020.docx

To Whom It May Concern,

Here is a listing of official correspondence from the SWRC to be submitted to the Town Council:

- 1) Recommendation of ensuring there is the collection of diversion items at Special Events on Town-owned properties. Originally submitted 21OCT2019 (see below in e-mail thread and .pdf attachment of minutes from 11SEP2019).
- 2) Three members of the SWRC have provided input to the Comprehensive Community Plan. Please see attached .docx file.
- 3) Finally on 15JUL2020, there was a Motion by Ms. McGaw, seconded by Mr. Slabicky, to recommend the Town Council update the SWRC by-laws to add the Recycling Coordinator as an ex-officio member, which passed by acclamation. The Economic Development Committee has a similar provision for the Town's Director of Business Development position.

<https://www.portsmouthri.com/200/Economic-Development-Committee>

It was the consensus of the SWRC that the committee receives excellent information from the Recycling Coordinator and it is vital to continue to maintain two-way communications with the Town Staff.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at anytime.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ted Pietz

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Ted . <pietzi@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Oct 21, 2019 at 6:07 PM  
**Subject:** [Portsmouth SWRC] "Tax Base vs. Enterprise Fund" updated copy and SWRC recommendation of diversion from Special Events on Town-owned properties  
**To:** Jennifer M. West <jwest@portsmouthri.com>  
**Cc:** ClerkOffice <clerkoffice@portsmouthri.com>

To Whom It May Concern:

Please submit as official correspondence to the Town Council. Attached are supporting documents.

1) ...

2)

Ms. Gillman proposed a motion to accept the following wording:

As part of the application process to utilize town properties for special events\* the applicant will provide an agreement with a hauler for disposal of solid waste and recycling materials and/or a facilities map identifying the receptacles and/or other information, which can serve as proof of recycling. \*Special events are short-term, organized activities of a recreational, sporting, cultural, exposition, or trade nature.

Mr. Slabicky 2nd. Approved 6/0.

Mr. Barandiaran proposed a motion to recommend to town council that the town incorporate wording approved above into any contract or application for the use of town property and become official policy of the town.

Mr. Pietz 2nd. Approved 6/0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ted Pietz

Portsmouth Solid Waste/Recycling Committee  
Town Hall, 2200 East Main Road, Portsmouth, RI 02871

Minutes for Meeting Number 140 on September 11, 2019

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Theodore Pietz, Paul Barandiaran, Ihor Slabicky, Tom Gorski, Paul Crabb, Carolyn Gillman

**GUESTS:** Raymond Antaya

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mike Eyre, Claudette Weissinger, Michelle McGaw

**MINUTES:**

- Approval of committee minutes for July 10, 2019, as amended. Approved 6/0.

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:**

- RIRRC Municipal Customer Monthly Summary: Portsmouth – July & August 2019

**Reports:**

1. Chairperson report

- a) Town Council 13AUG2019
  - i. The Town Council approved prorated transfer station sticker fee schedule as proposed by SWRC.
  - ii. Streetlight installation at the entrance to transfer station was placed in the 2020 provisional budget.
- b) RIRRC Grant application.

The town applied for a Big Belly single stream compactor station. RIRRC will respond by October 4th. RIRRC will match any funds the town spends up to the ceiling amount. The Big Belly is estimated to cost \$5k.
- c) Civic Plus “Notify Me” feature for “Recycling & Related Issues”.

A letter was sent to the Portsmouth Times on 09SEP2019. The town website “notify me” allows subscription to town agenda, zoning board, recycling notes etc. Great for special collection event and other ad-hoc notifications.

2. Recycling coordinator

- a) RIRRC monthly summary

The town is maintaining a 34.7% recycling rate this year. Portsmouth borrowed 200 tons of yard waste ceiling from Bristol and may need to borrow 50 tons from Middletown in the future to meet the needs for Portsmouth yard waste.

- b) Projected sticker revenue was based on participation of 3000 households
  - a. 2018
    - i. \$438716 total sticker sales. 27 reduced rate stickers.
    - ii. 3069 households
    - iii. 4076 total stickers
    - iv. Pay as you throw income: \$252,271 total
  - b. 2019
    - i. \$471334 in sticker sales for 2019
    - ii. 2581 households participated through August
    - iii. 3348 total stickers
    - iv. Pay as you throw income through July 2019: \$134,422
- c) E-Waste event is on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Portsmouth High School. Another E-Waste event is scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>.
- d) Scrap metal collection on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 available for all Portsmouth residents at the Portsmouth Transfer Station.
- e) A hard plastic collection is planned for September 21 at the Portsmouth Transfer Station. Available only for transfer station users.
- f) Eco-depot will be in Tiverton September 14, 2019 and Newport September 28, 2019.
- g) Only \$50 has been collected on C&D. Each transfer station sticker gets four tags to dump C&D initially.
- h) Maggie Sheerin will be at the Portsmouth Police department on September 30, 2019 at ~9am. Maggie rides her bike around the nation and the state promoting standardized recycling labels for packaging.

**Old Business:**

1. Town properties events permit application to include diversion plan.

The committee reviewed the City of Newport Code 5.70.070 - "Disposal of solid waste and recyclable materials at special events" and similar rules in the Town of Portsmouth application for use of Glen Farm.

Ms. Gillman proposed a motion to accept the following wording:

**As part of the application process to utilize town properties for special events\* the applicant will provide an agreement with a hauler for disposal of solid waste and recycling materials and/or a facilities map identifying the receptacles and/or other information, which can serve as proof of recycling.**

**\*Special events are short-term, organized activities of a recreational, sporting, cultural, exposition, or trade nature.**

Mr. Slabicky 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved 6/0.

Mr. Barandiaran proposed a motion to recommend to town council that the town incorporate wording approved above into any contract or application for the use of town property and become official policy of the town.

Mr. Pietz 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved 6/0.

**New Business:**

1. Carry in Carry Out at Park Ave. trial by Town Council.  
The committee discussed the recent implementation of Carry In Carry Out on Park Avenue. All garbage cans have been removed. To date the Park Ave. area has been very clean since carry in carry out was initiated. Also discussed were the lessons learned and the DPW barrel allocation town-wide.
2. Tiverton Landfill Closure/Solid Waste Management.  
Tiverton is in the process of closing their landfill by November 30, 2020. The Tiverton Town Council met on August 13, 2019 to discuss the closure. The Recycling Coordinator spoke to head of Tiverton DPW when they visited our transfer facility.
3. Media Articles of Interest:
  - a. "Where Does Our Recycling Go?" The Public's Radio (published 05AUG2019)
    - i. Rate for ton/paper from 2010 (sell for ~\$144/ton) to today (pay ~\$3/ton)
  - b. "In Portsmouth: Out with the trash barrels, in with the signs" Portsmouth Times (published 13AUG2019)
  - c. "Coca-Cola will sell Dasani in aluminum cans and bottles" CNN (published 13AUG2019)
  - d. "Bigbelly Trash Bins Raise a Stink " Newport This Week (published 15AUG2019)
  - e. "State Plastic and Paper Bag Legislation" NCSL.org (published 15AUG2019)
  - f. "Facing legal hurdle, Palm Beach will repeal ban on plastic bags, polystyrene containers" Palm Beach Post (published 17AUG2019)
  - g. "Little Compton proposes new rules for balloons, plastics; And for night lights to preserve a dark sky" East Bay RI (published 29AUG2019)

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm. Mr. Slabicky motioned to adjourn, with Ms. Gillman 2nd. Approved 6/0.

Next regular meeting committee meeting scheduled for 7:00 pm on October 9, 2019 at Portsmouth Town Hall.

Portsmouth Solid Waste/Recycling Advisory Committee  
2200 East Main Road  
Portsmouth, RI 02871

August 1, 2020

To the Honorable Town Council of Portsmouth:

Below are the aggregated responses from the SWRC regarding the Community Comprehensive Plan (CCP) "Section 7.8 - Solid Waste Management".

Respectfully submitted,

Theodore Pietz

Comment #1)

It should be noted that if every resident of Portsmouth used the Transfer Station (TS) for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and recycling, the facility would be grossly inadequate to deal with that volume. The sticker sales may be around 2,000 HH this year, so it is expected that the TS is running well.

If TS was utilized for one-off diversion items (as currently done today), the facility could support every household in Portsmouth using it, with careful planning.

The following two sentences currently in the CCP should be revisited with the knowledge of the information provided directly below:

1) *"Approximately half of Portsmouth households' drop-off their waste and recycling at one of the Town's two Transfer Stations."*

As of March 2020 meeting of the SWRC, Ray Antaya reported only 2,019 households had bought TS stickers. The wastewater count is just under 7K (6,979) premises per Tod Drake (as of 07NOV2019).

2) *"Portsmouth's Transfer Stations are available to residents only and are verified using auto registrations."* The SWRC has tabled a current agenda item regarding this (opening up various aspects of the Transfer Station to non-Portsmouth residents). For example, there could be a decision to allow outside communities to bring their (money making) scrap metal to the TS.

Looking forward, the Town of Portsmouth should be innovative and remain flexible regarding its options regarding MSW.

Comment #2)

*“(The CCP) talks about how our schools have separate contracts for waste removal. I feel like it should be part of the plan to have consistency among all of our municipal buildings, including schools for efficiency and potential cost savings.*

*The same could be said for our public spaces which also contract individually for waste removal. We should be working towards one plan for our parks, beaches and ball fields.*

*If this is truly a "plan" we should be "planning" to find additional ways to reduce solid waste including incorporation of compost programs for residents. I would like to see that specified in the plan.*

*One thing we could also put into the plan is a goal to restrict the use of non-biodegradable products such as plastic and Styrofoam. This has been done in other communities, and I think putting it into our plan to make it happen over the next 10 years would give us a goal that needs to be addressed. We are not saying we need to do it right now, but adding it to the plan is a step in the right direction.”*

### Comment #3)

Re: Food Scraps program. *“It's more just getting the language in there as aspirational goals...”*

*“...if the transfer station closes we would need to / should secure another job for the Recycling Coordinator, within the new system.:*

Chair's Notes: On July 15, 2020 the SWRC under took a vote to recommend a change to its bylaws regarding creating an ex-officio position for the Recycling Coordinator. It is the view of the SWRC that the Town of Portsmouth commit to a Recycling Coordinator position regardless of whether the Town switches to a curbside program, remains with the Transfer Station, or selects some sort of “hybrid” approach.