

Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes December 1, 2015

The Matthews Environmental Committee met in regular session on December 1, 2015 at the Public Works Facility. Members present were Chairman Gordon Miller, Scott Baranowski, Ollie Frazier, John Lynch, David Ross and Bob Stratton. Also present were David Holt from Republic Services, along with Rosalind Cumming and CJ O'Neill from Public Works.

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The November minutes were reviewed and approved.

Mr. Holt gave the Republic Services report stating that they had seen a huge increase in yard waste during November. The week before Thanksgiving was especially heavy with 190 tons (the normal amount for a whole month) being picked up in one week. Yard waste trucks ran on delay all week, with Republic hiring 4 temporary employees from Labor Ready, to help manage the routes. Five yard waste trucks were running by Thursday to help complete the weeks pick up. Mr. Holt also stated that this week, the week after Thanksgiving, was also especially heavy and they were running behind again. Republic will use the temporary employees again, to catch up with yard waste and to get it back on schedule. Mr. Ross suggested that the exceptional yard waste should be documented as a PR item, informing the residents about the huge quantity.

Disposal information spreadsheets were then reviewed and the Republic Services complaints spreadsheet was discussed. Also discussed was the billing of extra carts. In the ordinance it states that a second trash container and a second recycling container should be charged for. Since we switched to the 96 gallon recycling bins, we have always charged a \$40 fee for a second recycling bin. However, additional trash cans have not been charged for. Mr. O'Neill stated that going forward we should start charging a \$40 fee for any additional trash containers. There were questions raised about how to go back and charge residents who already have more than one trash can.

Under storm water issues Mr. Lynch stated that there are five major road & building projects going on in Matthews currently. Every day he sees creeks being contaminated and wants to know what the monitoring process is. Mr. O'Neill addressed this by stating that there are several layers in place to protect the streams, and that the ordinance can only do so much. He said the large development plans have to go through a process where their plans are reviewed by the County for erosion control. Silt fence and sediment ponds are used, a rain gauge is required and the site has to be inspected within 24 hours of rain. The County inspector looks at the site on a fairly routine basis. The inspector also comes out if there are any calls of violations. Using these processes about 85% of the solid wastes are removed. Currently Matthews is using stronger

enforcement rules than the State. The State is trying to eliminate this, which will in effect, lower our monitoring rules. Mr. O'Neill also stated that several fines have been levied for the companies that are currently working in Matthews. Mr. Ross suggested that a Public meeting be held with the State coming here to discuss with the constituents this process. Mr. Lynch asked that the Environmental Committee and the Board would like to see a list of the monitoring for these projects, including what was found, and any fines that have been levied. Mr. O'Neill said he would handle this and have it sent out. Mr. Lynch stated that he has seen several places without barriers and that he will struggle with fining residents for one time problems of \$1000, when these companies are doing so much damage.

Regarding Air Quality, Mr. Ross, reported that there was no activity regarding air quality in Matthews, and that all regulated facilities in the Matthews area were in compliance. Also, there were no violations of ozone levels in the past month in Matthews.

Regarding Physical Agents, there were no physical agent issues.

Under other business, a revised draft of the RFP, request for proposal, for solid waste was discussed. Mr. Blodgett (Town Manager) had several questions and comments that needed to be addressed. The apartment complex that we currently pick up is Matthews Reserves off of Sam Newell road. It originally obtained a grant to pick up their recycles and the Town assumed the cost after the grant ended. Recycling is also picked up from Plantation Estates (retirement community). Both of these sites are billed separately to the Town. Small businesses are currently given 1 trash and 1 recycling container. They are billed for extra recycling containers (\$40) and until now, additional trash containers have not been billed. If a company requires more than 3 trash cans, then they are requested to purchase a large dumpster from a trash company.

The date for the proposal to be due to the Town was changed from January 8th to the 15th. This is to allow time in February for the companies to come in and discuss, and for discussion at the Board planning conference in March. This then allows three months for negotiations. The RFP still needs to be reviewed by our past Public Works Director Ralph Messera. Mr. O'Neill has sent the RFP to Mr. Messera for review this week. The committee decided to meet as normal on the first Tuesday in January, the 5th, and to also hold an additional meeting once the RFP's are received on January 15th.

With other business completed, a motion was made at 8:25 pm to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded, and passed. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday January 5th, 2015.

Rosalind Cumming
Secretary