

Borough of Mechanicsburg  
Citizens Advisory Recycling Committee Meeting  
February 1, 2005, 6 PM

Chairman Shulman called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

The following people were in attendance:

Mayor Ritter

Councilmen: Humes, Kautz, Ryder

Citizens Recycling Advisory Committee members: Diane Hollinger, Carl Hursh, Arleen Shulman

Guest: Cecilia Viti

Borough Staff: Glenda Boyer

Cecilia Viti, a Mechanicsburg resident who had volunteered with the West Shore drop-off recycling program and has continued interest in recycling, joined the committee.

The committee discussed issues and concerns regarding contracting for waste and recycling service, including Pay-As-You-Throw collection, adding materials such as cardboard and paperboard to the curbside recycling program, and use of "toters" for future waste collection. Councilman Humes expressed concerns over sanitation issues that could be associated with holding garbage for more than one week before set out for collection. Councilman Ryder stated that he was not convinced that a PAYT program would reduce costs for residents. The committee discussed various forms of PAYT including programs in Camp Hill, Carlisle, and Elizabethtown Boroughs and East Manchester Twp. Hursh suggested that Ed Ward return to field questions from the committee about the PAYT services that Penn Waste provides. Councilman Ryder added that Mr. Ward was willing to provide any further information the committee needed. Councilman Ryder is also interested in visiting Elizabethtown Borough to see first-hand how PAYT works in that community. Shuman defined "Hybrid" PAYT programs as those that offered more than one collection option.

Hollinger explained the features of the PAYT program in South Middleton Twp., where residents may subscribe annually for waste toter service or buy a minimum of 18 tags for placement on bags (or cans). Hollinger estimated that 900 S. Middleton households use the tag system. In addition, residents need more than one toter per week must use a tags for additional collection. Hursh said that the toters used in South Middleton were provided by the hauler (at the time) and were amortized over the life of the contract. Several committee members expressed interest in the use of toters for waste collection. Hursh said that he is gathering information from South Whitehall Twp., Lehigh Co., where a switch to toters has resulted in a 33% increase in recycling. Mayor Ritter asked

whether collection had to occur alleys, suggesting that collection trucks create excessive wear and tear on pavement. Shuman said that the current contract did not direct where collection must occur. Boyer related the current contractor assumed the routing used by the previous contractor. Shulman reiterated her recommendation from the January meeting that the Borough should ask in its bid solicitation for alternatives to unlimited disposal and directed Hursh to prepare examples of different approaches.

Hursh stated that while costs of fuel, labor, and insurance were increasing, unlimited collection without a PAYT option gives Mechanicsburg and Hampden Township the highest collection costs of the municipalities served by Penn Waste. Councilman Kautz spoke up in favor of eliminating unlimited disposal as a cost savings measure and also suggested other areas for savings, including reduction in the frequency of bulky item collection and alternatives for grass clippings collection. Regarding the management of grass clippings, Hursh suggested four options: leaving grass clippings on the lawn (through the use of mulching mowers), backyard composting, requiring bagged grass clipping to be placed in kraft paper bags and either charging residents for collection by the Borough or self-haul to the Borough's composting site when it is operational. Councilman Kautz said that with his family of three, he sets out about a bag and a half of waste each week and would have no problem with a bag limit.

Hursh circulated a survey currently form in use by the City of Titusville. The survey intends to obtain information about Titusville residents' waste and recycling practices. Councilman Hume spoke in favor of a similar survey being conducted in Mechanicsburg. Much discussion followed and the result was consensus that the Borough should include a tear out survey with the next Borough newsletter that could be returned directly to the Borough office or as a self mailer. Shulman and Humes volunteered to help compile data resulting from the survey. Boyer will check with the printer and the Post Office on the intricacies of survey procedures. Hursh will attempt to get an electronic file of the Titusville survey for reformatting to serve Mechancisburg's needs.

Boyer was asked to contact Elizabhtown Borough to set up a site visit, and to contact Ed Ward to come to the next committee meeting.

Councilman Ryder receive consensus from the committee about expanding its role into other environmental issues, and mentioned stormwater management, open space, and hazardous wastes as examples. He is scheduled to meet with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council on Feb. 2 to discuss forming and Environmental Advisory Committee for the Borough.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 PM.