

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAIN LAKES
2022 Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
January 31, 2022

Minutes

PRESENT: Lauren Barnett, Doug Edler, Glen Garvin, Ryan Gorman, Dan Happer, Mimi Kaplan, Chad Scherger, Khizar Sheikh

ABSENT: Mitchell Stern

1. Housekeeping items.

Approved minutes from January 13 meeting.

Determined borough manager should set up site visits of transfer stations and recycling facilities.

2. Benchmarking & trend information (see attached Exhibit A).

Reviewed and discussed benchmarking and trend information. Discussed where ML stands in relation to other Morris County towns relating to garbage collection and recycling.

3. Solid waste program options.

Discussed solid waste program options and shared initial points of view regarding bulleted topics. Discussion of benefits, drawbacks, and alternatives. Concluded that the resolution of each topic ultimately driven by a combination of what is most efficient and sightly for our Borough, economic considerations and cost, and community preferences.

- *Curb-side vs. home-side garbage and recycling pick-up.* ML is the only Morris County town that provides home-side pick-up. Before moving to curb-side, consideration should be given to true cost, affect on street aesthetics, and community preferences. If ML moves to curb-side, an option for home-side pick-up should remain at a net-zero cost to Borough for any resident that chooses such service.
- *Frequency of pick-up.* ML currently has a 1x/week pick-up. Discussion of 1x/week and 2x/week. Any change dependent on true cost of additional pick-up and concerns over additional truck traffic in Borough.
- *Dual-stream vs. single-stream recycling.* ML currently uses a dual-stream model. Discussion to remain dual-stream rather than moving to single-stream or a 3-stream model. Discussion to move to an alternating week model for paper and co-mingled to improve the collection efficiency of recyclables.
- *Pay-as-you-go policy.* Discussed alternative options to green bags, which are not popular in ML. Possible options include affixing stickers to resident-purchased bags or receiving standard-size containers from ML. Discussion included potential budget impact to ML.

- *Service provider for garbage collection.* ML currently uses a traditional hauler. Discussion to remain with a traditional hauler at this time.
- *Service provider for recyclables collection.* ML currently uses a traditional hauler. Discussion whether to remain with traditional hauler or move to the Morris County program.
- *Ownership of recyclables.* ML currently receives payments for recycling tonnage. Discussion regarding the net cost to ML due to contamination and mixing of recyclables. Discussion whether ownership and risk should remain with ML, and if so, options to reduce contamination and mixing.
- *Bulk trash pick-up options.* ML currently uses multiple “trash day” drop-offs at recycling center. Other current options for residents to dispose bulk trash are contracting with private hauler or transporting to transfer station in neighboring communities. Discussion whether ML should provide home pick-up at a certain frequency and/or increase ability of residents to drop-off at recycling center.
- *Contractual terms.* Discussion to break bid into 2 pieces between garbage collection and recycling, as well as seek bids for multiple terms and scenarios.

4. Approach/es for gathering community input.

Resolved that February 7 meeting to be used to discuss community survey, including details regarding key data to gather, method, design, timing.

5. Other Business.

None.

6. Next meeting.

Monday, February 7 @7pm via zoom (Khizar Sheikh, rotating chair)

7. Next steps.

- Schedule site visits (Borough manager).
- Draft method, design, timing, and questions for citizen survey (SWAC).
- SWAC members – come to 2/7 meeting prepared to recommend and review draft survey questions (SWAC).