

SOLID WASTE & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
MCCARTY, LAPIN, FARWELL, KENNEDY, BROCKWAY
April 14, 2020
9:00am

Please note the meeting attendance as follows:

Present in person at the Otsego County Office Building Board Chambers,
197 Main Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326:

Representative Kennedy
Representative Brockway

Present remotely via video conference:

Representative McCarty
Representative Lapin
Representative Farwell
Karen Sullivan, Director of Solid Waste
Jordan Clements, District Manager
Shane Digan, Recycling Coordinator
Lorry O'Brien-DuBois, Administrative Aide
Lonnie O'Bryan, General Manager, Casella Waste Systems

SOLID WASTE—KAREN SULLIVAN and SHANE DIGAN via video conference

Karen Sullivan, Director of Solid Waste, emailed to the Committee prior to the meeting and requested approval of the March 18, 2020 Solid Waste & Environmental Concerns Committee minutes. Representative Brockway motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded, Lapin. Roll call vote. Total: 2,407. Ayes: 2,407. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan and the Committee discussed entering into contract with Charter Communications/ Spectrum for recycling advertisements for 2020, including but not limited to: considerations regarding cautiously moving forward with the expenditure with regard to budgetary concerns that are evolving on the NYS and County level due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that the budget for the recycling advertising was reduced from \$20,000 to \$10,000. Representative Kennedy motioned to enter into contract with Charter Communications/ Spectrum in the amount of \$10,000. Seconded, Lapin. Roll call vote. Total: 2,407. Ayes: 2,407. Motion carried.

OTSEGO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT—JORDAN CLEMENTS via video conference

Jordan Clements, District Manager, gave the following program updates, including but not limited to:

- the District is currently closed to public until further notice and staff are working remotely in accordance with NYS and County guidelines to reduce the spread of COVID-19
- the following events have been cancelled:
 - monthly Ag & Farmland Protection Committee meetings (until further notice)
 - the 2020 Envirothon
 - the 2020 Fish Program
 - the Cover Crop and Soil Health class has been rescheduled to fall 2020
- the 2020 Annual Tree and Shrub Sale will continue as scheduled for one day on Friday, April 24, 2020 from 8:00am-5:00pm, but Mr. Clements noted:
 - Pre-orders only (there will not be additional trees/shrubs for sale)
 - Pickup will be by appointment only
 - Clients are instructed to please drive-thru to pickup their items

Mr. Clements updated the Committee regarding grant applications, including but not limited to:

- Ag Non-Point Source grants:
 - Otsego County Buffer Project II—designs are complete, planting will hopefully take place later this spring or fall
 - Lower Wharton Creek Heavy Use Area Protection & Buffer project—forest buffer to be planted on stream surrounding the property
- Climate Resiliency grants: working on four (4) applications, due in May 2020

Mr. Clements said that although staff are working remotely, progress is continuing on the majority of services.

SOLID WASTE—KAREN SULLIVA and SHANE DIGAN via video conference (cont'd)

Also Present: LONNIE O'BRYAN of Casella via video conference

Karen Sullivan and Shane Digan, Recycling Coordinator, presented and reviewed the following reports:

- Solid Waste Totals: 2,802.88 tons of solid waste were collected in March
- Recycling Costs: 302.7 tons of recycling were collected in March (down 8.96 tons from last year), at an average cost of \$147.78 per ton, total costs for recycling including labor in March \$44,731.86
- Mattress Collection for March 2020: 270 mattresses

Karen Sullivan, Shane Digan, and Lonnie O'Bryan of Casella Waste Systems, reviewed the safety precautions being taken at transfer stations to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 during the pandemic, including but not limited to:

- practice social distancing, a minimum of 6 ft. between people
- remember to wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry, if hand washing is unavailable)
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

See resources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the NYS Department of Health, and the Otsego County Department of Health for guidelines and current information about COVID-19.

Also noted: visit the transfer stations only if it's necessary and try to limit the number of trips, consider using a local hauler instead, styrofoam collection is suspended at the ARC ReUse Center until further notice, voluntary food waste collection and electronic waste collection will continue at the Oneonta transfer station, and film plastics will continue to be collected at local grocery stores

Lonnie O'Bryan shared a message via email from Casella CEO John Casella with information about the precautionary measures Casella is taking to keep their employees, customers, suppliers, and the community safe.

Karen Sullivan noted Otsego County Conservation Association's Earth Day 2020 will not be hosted in person this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however online events can be found on their website <http://occainfo.org/earth-festival/>.

Karen Sullivan also noted the three (3) county site visit to the Delaware County Solid Waste Management Center on April 29, 2020 will be scheduled.

Karen Sullivan and the Committee discussed various potential budget cuts as part of the County-wide efforts to respond to the COVID-19 economic crisis, including but not limited to possibly cancelling the 2020 Household Hazardous Waste Days.

The Committee did not set a date for their next meeting, and was in consensus that the date would be determined at a later time. The Committee adjourned.