

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(5)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: November 13th, 2012

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD (EAB) RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SOLID WASTE

DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS	PUBLIC HEARING: NO
ATTACHMENTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. ResolutionB. Draft minutes from 10-4-12 EAB meeting. Recommendations about Solid Waste and RecyclingC. Recommendations from EAB about Solid Waste and Recycling.D. 10-1-12 Memorandum from Public Works Director to Town Manager regarding information for EAB.E. June 12, 2007 abstract – A report on alternative waste reduction and recycling strategies.F. Feb. 6. 2007 abstract – a preliminary report on the possibilities and implications of implementing pay-as-you-throw.	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: George Seiz (918-7427)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is to provide the Board of Alderman an opportunity to discuss recent recommendations by the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) regarding solid waste issues.

INFORMATION

At their regular meeting held on October 4, 2012, the EAB discussed various solid waste issues as they related to the Town of Carrboro, Orange County and other Towns within Orange County. Draft minutes of the meeting are attached. Discussion from the meeting resulted in several recommendations. Aldermen Michele Johnson requested that these recommendations be brought to the BOA for discussion.

To help address the two over-arching recommendations submitted by the EAB for further consideration the following information is provided:

- Blair Pollack from Orange County Solid Waste and George Seiz, Carrboro Public Works Director attended the October 4th EAB meeting. Both provided information about solid waste and recycling issues as they relate to the Town and County. Attached is a memorandum from the Public Works Director which speaks about some impacts to the Town due to the closing of the Orange County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill come June 30, 2013. The most significant changes include planned operational changes for the Multi-Family/Commercial Dumpster Service and changes in routes and collection days for Single Family Residential Collection. The memo also includes previous waste

reduction discussions by the Town (pay-as-your-throw, junk mail, aluminum cans, plastic bags as well) and proposed future recycling efforts by the County (going to Single stream collection and future plans to go to the use of carts for collection).

- The EAB and BOA have both expressed interest in the outcome of Chapel Hill's comprehensive review of their solid waste collection and disposal options. The final report was discussed Chapel Hill's Town Council work session on October 29, 2012. The findings are broken down into 1) Immediate Recommendations, 2) Short-term Recommendations and 3) Long-Term Recommendations. Included in the immediate recommendations are initiating a new inter-local agreement with Orange County for recycling program and continuing to transport yard waste and white goods to Orange County. Short Term recommendations include commencing efforts to site/construct a new transfer station (including participation by the Town of Carrboro), transition to automated residential waste collection, develop a hybrid pay-as-you-throw system for excess waste, and continue collaboration with UNC on joint vegetative waste and organics processing.

Town Staff will continue collaborating with the Town of Chapel Hill and Orange County on solid waste issues. It is anticipated that this effort would include the initiation of a new inter-local agreement for recycling and the continued disposal of yard waste, construction & demolition debris, as well as white goods and other recyclables at the Orange County facilities. The County's proposal to move forward with single stream recycling and larger recycling containers may increase participation and reduce the Town's waste stream. Recent discussions indicate that Orange County is looking to re-establish the Solid Waste Advisory Board (SWAB) which would include representatives from the various local governments and whose charge may include looking at waste to energy solutions or the creation of a regional solid waste authority.

As noted earlier, the Chapel Hill Town Council has indicated an interest in organics processing similar to the Board of Aldermen's recently expressed interest in that subject. Organics collection/disposal will be a good collaboration topic for the municipalities and county that Town staff will begin researching.

As Public Works prepares to implement the changes in residential collection schedules it will be an opportune time to re-educate the public about waste reduction and recycling opportunities. The additional education effort will add some cost in terms of printing and distribution, but efficiencies will be realized by distributing materials only one time.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

There will be a slight increase in the cost of printing materials for the education and outreach efforts and staff time will be needed to continue research on organic material processing.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen accept the report.