

DATE: October 3, 2023
TIME: 9:10 AM

Belmont Solid Waste and Recycling Committee
2023.05.19

Attendees	Committee Members Not Present
Mahesh Jayakumar, chair (present for part of the meeting)	
Doug Koplow, vice chair	
Jason Ketola, secretary	
Terri Goldberg	
Julie Wu	
Jay Marcotte (ex officio), Director of Public Works	
Kevin Bouck (ex officio), Recycling Coordinator	
Two employees from ReSupply (Paul and Jess)	

The meeting was called to order at 8:09am. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Presentation from ReSupply

- ReSupply is a vendor for household item pick up, junk pick up, and donation that would like to be considered for advertisement by the town.
- Works nationwide in 44 states, headquartered in Massachusetts.
- Visit residents' homes within 24 hours of a request, will go up and down stairs, will disassemble goods, and will collect all items necessary to take at once, including hazardous materials. They take everything at once.
- They work with 2,000 charities and keep apprised of what charities need. ReSupply will route items from a pickup to the charities that can use them. Their goal is to keep items out of the landfill.
- Residents get a digital tax credit for donations.
- ReSupply keeps track of the number of items kept out of the landfill for each city they serve.
- Because they have insured movers that are working for them, they are able to go into houses to get refrigerators and other items and don't require items to be placed at the curb.

- They provide a six month military transition program for people leaving the military, where they can get training. They later help with job placement.
- Scheduling can be done on the phone or online.
- <https://resupplyapp.com/> is the website.
- In terms of hazardous materials collected, they can sometimes donate paints to Habitat for Humanity. Other items like tires and oil are tricky. They can sometimes find charities that take tires. It was pointed out that tires are not hazardous.
- Charities do not pay for ReSupply's services.
- ReSupply does have some fees related to disposal and pickup. They charge the resident. The pickup costs are \$100-\$250 per pickup on average. They are about 60% cheaper than 1-800-GOT-JUNK.
- Habitat for Humanity used to have an internal department that would do pickups for items that would be used in houses they build. Since partnering with ReSupply, they've been able to pare back staff dedicated to that and have saved money.
- Employees and third party contractors are insured. These individuals also require background checks.
- ReSupply is cheaper than other companies because they can reduce disposal costs and can optimize pickup and routing using software.
- ReSupply will pick up mattresses. If they're in good condition, they will donate them. If they're not donatable, they will be directed to processors.
- Any small items that are breakable (like fine china) have to be put in an enclosed box by the resident.
- There are a number of negative Yelp reviews about no-shows and where people complain about difficulty getting ahold of someone. In general, reviews across platforms are positive however. A live call center was launched recently to address the contact issue raised.
- Truck tracking is embedded into their system. They provide four hour pickup windows. They provide a notice within 30 minutes of arriving for a pickup.
- ReSupply would like to do a 30-90 day pilot with the town.
- Residents can use ReSupply currently but a partnership with the town would be important for raising awareness.
- ReSupply said that some towns are looking to subsidize ReSupply pickup where the town sees cost savings in reductions from bulky item pickup or tipping fees.
- Doug moved that we support ReSupply with a link on the website and a 90 day trial. Terri seconded. The committee unanimously approved.

Town textile program and resident education

- Kevin has been posting on social media about initiatives like the CMRK partnerships. Committee Members suggested he do more education about the textile program.

Warrant Committee requests charging residents for bulky item and mattress pickup

- Jay said that the Warrant Committee is asking the town to shift to charging for bulky item pick up and for mattress pick up.

Composting update

- The schools are struggling to implement composting. Cost and rodents are concerns. Jay will have a meeting with the schools after the budget is voted on. Only Chenery is having some success, but they are also having some issues with it.

Next meeting

- Jay will circulate dates for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24am.