



Compost facility would limit landfill reliance

By Jeffrey D. Wagner

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FREETOWN — A North Easton-based company is proposing to develop a compost facility on Copicut Road that would process 60,000 tons of separated organic waste and 20,000 tons of yard waste a year on nine acres.

The Peninsula Compost Group LLC made a presentation on its proposal to a packed room of residents and officials at Monday's Board of Selectmen meeting.

Company representative Whitney Hall said the recently incorporated firm evolved from a project in Nantucket in which it was called upon to decrease the community's dependence on a landfill. It developed a composting facility next door.

Hall and company president Charles Gifford extolled the environmental and community benefits of such a project and answered an array of questions ranging from odor control to vermin control.

Hall said the high-end technology at its facilities in Wilmington, Del., and Nantucket reduces odor and accelerates the composting process.

They said they are aligned with Gore Cover System, which creates a special covering that allows for control of the moisture and oxygen content in the composting material.

"The design is such that water vapor and carbon dioxide can pass through the fabric, but large odorous compounds and water cannot," according to a release from the company. Fabrics prevent 97 percent of the composting odors from escaping. The fabric allows for the separation of storm water and any water that flows out of the composting material.

The facility in Freetown — which would be on K.R. Rezendes Inc. land — would be half the size of its Delaware counterpart. It would prompt 35 truck trips a day from Exit 9 down South Main Street toward Copicut Road.

The material would run through a biofilter and be covered by material that can cover 165 feet. It will be left there for a four-week period. Then the cover would be removed and material would be turned to generate more activity.

After six weeks, all odors will be gone and the product will be ready for use for agricultural, landscaping and other projects for businesses and homeowners. However, the material will be screened and not ready for public use for another two weeks. During the screening, wood would be removed and would return to the first phase for a breakdown.

Gifford and Hall said the proposed facility would benefit Freetown in annual cash payments, increased property tax revenue, the shifting of recycling tasks to the company, free composting material to residents and the creation of 12 jobs.

They also mentioned several environmental benefits, including decreasing dependence on landfills and reducing green house gas emissions.

Responding to a series of questions from nearby residents and Selectmen Chairman Lawrence Ashley, Gifford said odor will be contained to the property. He said the state Department of Environmental Protection would shut down the facility if it is not contained.

Gifford said the Freetown facility would be similar to the Delaware one and that the company would pay for a trip for Freetowners to visit the facility and talk to the locals there.

Monday's meeting was a preliminary introduction. The next step would be for The Peninsula Compost Group LLC to meet with the Board of Health about site plans. It then needs to receive a special permit from the town's Planning Board.

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Chris J Smith

2 days ago

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Wow. FREE compost to residents. That is something not seen in todays world--a company willing to give their product away.

bundecutchie

2 days ago

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To hell with that, America is a capitalist country and we should have to pay a huge markup on everything we receive. I think this bleeding heart, communist compost is a bad idea. Couldn't they put another wal-mart on that site?

freetowndad

2 days ago

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Great idea, let's make Freetown a leader in Green projects ! Let's get a bio-park in town next..

Anne Bonney

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North Kingstown RI does this and it works out well for everyone :)

melbell611

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This is a great idea... but let's get recycling revamped first. One step at a time. Once we improve the existing practice of recycling, introduce composting.

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