

Residents defeat proposal to allow outside materials in district landfill

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BARKHAMSTED - Proposals to allow the regional landfill to accept materials from outside the landfill district were soundly defeated at a special town meeting Wednesday night in Barkhamsted School.

Many speakers at the meeting criticized operation of the landfill, which is on the federal Super Fund list for cleanup of dumps that are polluted.

The regional landfill is operated by Barkhamsted, Winchester, New Hartford and Colebrook.

The town meeting also voted to recommend that the landfill charter be revised so landfill budgets will be voted on by voters in the landfill district towns instead of the landfill directors.

The town meeting voted to recommend that the landfill charter be changed so the landfill board could not spend money without approval by towns in the landfill district.

In other action, by a vote of 40-28, residents rejected a landfill charter change that would have allowed recyclables to be accepted from outside the four towns that operate the landfill.

On a 47-24 vote, the town meeting defeated another proposal to allow the landfill to continue accepting wooden pallets from a Waterbury company in exchange for the company accepting cardboard and newspaper from the landfill.

The defeat of the two questions means they have no chance of being adopted, because questions concerning the landfill must be approved by all towns that use the landfill.

A New Hartford town meeting has already turned down the proposal for acceptance of the pallets and tabled action on the landfill's acceptance of recyclables from outside the district.

Resident Franklin Batson, at the Wednesday night town meeting, criticized operation of the landfill, which, he said, is not supposed to

accept material from outside the four towns that operate it. "For years it has been illegally taking in materials in violation of the public trust," Batson said. John Baum of Barkhamsted, chairman of the landfill board of directors, spoke in favor of allowing the landfill to accept recyclables from outside the district.

Baum said the district would not accept any recyclables unless "we feel it is appropriate and in the best interest of the district."

The town meeting tabled action on a proposal to transfer a grant of \$17,982, received by the town from the state Department of Environmental Protection, to the landfill.

The proposal was tabled after First Selectwoman Carmella M. Lattizer, who presided at the meeting, said the town's board of finance had voted not to approve the transfer.

The meeting also approved an ordinance creating an appeal process for the enforcement of fines or other penalties for violations of town ordinances.