

Curbside recycling weighed

Mooresville is surveying town residents about their interest, how much it would cost and how to pay for it.

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MOORESVILLE The town is considering curbside recycling, but first it wants to hear from residents.

How frequently should the recycling truck make home pickups? Once every two weeks?

How should the town pay for the service? Through general taxes or a fee on residents who request curbside recycling?

"We can do recycling," Town Manager Steve Husemann said. "The question is how to pay for it."

The town will ask residents to respond online to those and other questions after it announces the survey in an upcoming Town Voice newsletter, which the town mails to all residents monthly through the postal service.

Husemann said he intends to present the results of the survey to the Mooresville Board of Commissioners at their annual retreat in February.

Commissioners, meanwhile, are scheduled Monday to vote on letting the town's public works division apply for a state community waste reduction and recycling grant that would help purchase a truck for town-wide curbside recycling.

Husemann said that vote doesn't mean the town is definitely going ahead with curbside recycling. The town could later back out of the grant if it decides not to implement the service, he said.

The grant would be for up to \$40,000 toward a truck expected to cost about \$200,000, Husemann said.

The town also could consider contracting for the service with a private company that already picks up recyclables at some Mooresville area homes, he said.

Husemann talked about the possibility of curbside recycling during a discussion of the grant application at a commissioners' meeting Thursday.

The town has provided recycling pickup in several subdivisions as a pilot project.

Husemann said the town wouldn't close its waste transfer station on N.C. 150 near U.S. 21 if the town starts curbside recycling. Residents drive their recyclables to the station each week, including Husemann.

The only effect on the station would be reduced traffic, he said.

In other news, Mooresville will consider broadcasting meetings live on its MI-Connection cable TV system and on the Web.

New commissioner Rhett Dusenbury proposed the broadcasts. "I have folks saying, 'You own the cable system, and you're not broadcasting the meetings?'" he said. The board must be transparent, he said.