

1 Solid Waste Committee Meeting

2 Monday January 22, 3.30 pm, Library Meeting Room

3 Members Present

4 Rich Marcou (Chair), Kent Ruesswick (BOS rep), Steve Rasche, LeeAnn Mackey,
5 Greg Heath, Emily Burr

6 Agenda

7 1. Call to order

8 Rich Marcou called the meeting to order just after 3.30 pm.

9 2. Previous Minutes of January 8, 2024

10 Kent Ruesswick moved to approve those Minutes and Greg Heath seconded.
11 All members voted aye.

12 3. Debrief Interview Notes

13 The Committee shared a consensus that the staff at the Transfer Station were
14 less concerned for change than were the members of the committee. As Steve
15 Rashe said, the big picture was different. That included resistance to ideas
16 such as addressing and changing traffic flow.

17 Greg noted that Dave had a solid command over what he and the staff were
18 doing there. That was reassuring.

19 Committee members agreed that they could respond to the obvious things
20 that the staff were asking for – starting with improved lighting. Kent reported
21 that he had talked with Ken Folsom that morning about the need for
22 electrician work at the Transfer Station. He understood that would not be a
23 problem in terms of paying for that work. Rich said it should be done asap
24 since it was a safety issue, especially during these winter months. The staff
25 needed outdoor lighting, emergency lights and bench lights. **Emily asked if**
26 **Kent would report back to the committee on progress.**

27 The committee discussed again the problem with the electricity supply to the
28 Transfer Station. This will not prevent lighting improvements, but it does
29 make it impossible to get enough power to the baler to hook up the heater it

30 needs, until a 400-amp fixture arrives. It has been on order for some time and
31 should come in February.

32 Greg suggested that the interviews provide the employee perspective, and
33 the committee will keep those in mind as they go through the work. Emily
34 Burr thought it important to look at what needs to be done right now.

35 Members agreed with Rich to take the interviews as a starting point for the
36 focus of ongoing work. Rich pointed out that the number one reason for back
37 ups in the traffic flow was because some people did not sort out their
38 recyclables prior to coming to the Transfer Station. Various ideas were floated
39 for addressing this, such as sending people out if they were not pre-sorted,
40 having signage, training both public and staff for this expectation. **Rich tabled**
41 **this discussion for a later meeting.**

42 Members then went through the priorities that Rich had identified for
43 upcoming work:

44 1. Cash at the Transfer Station – Rich had observed that there can be
45 quite a sum held there at any one time. Members agreed that cash
46 should be removed, and plans made to move to some other system,
47 like punch cards. **Greg moved that they work on a way to get cash out**
48 **of the Transfer Station. Lee Ann Mackey seconded. All voted in favor.**
49 **The details can be worked on later.**

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51 2. Pre-sorting of recyclables to avoid backups – members agreed this was
52 a priority so signage and other steps would be needed to address this
53 issue.

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55 3. There was a consensus that a second baler would be useful at the
56 Transfer Station, but for now that is a lower priority. It is hoped the new
57 400-amp piece will allow the heater on the existing baler to work
58 properly when it arrives – it was a supply chain issue. Obtaining an
59 electrical compactor is similarly lower priority.

60
61 4. There was also consensus that a new Glass crusher should be obtained
62 for the Transfer Station.

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- 64
- 65 5. Also a new Pole Barn – Rich described this as a 3-sided shed with some
66 kind of loose material on the front, where the staff could store bales
67 and also put the machinery out of snow and heavy rain. They need
68 proper storage space.
- 69
- 70 6. Another focus would be signage at the Transfer Station and on the
71 website, as LeeAnn had started. It was agreed these should be simple
72 and direct, including graphics.
- 73
- 74
- 75 7. The weigh scale idea was now a low priority; Steve wondered if
76 residents could be charged more for what they are dumping. Rich
77 thought that the example he had used of Gilford maybe did not reflect
78 the fact Gilford was a larger lakeside town with more volume and
79 debris.
- 80
- 81 8. Staffing and Volunteers –this was problematic because volunteers need
82 to be certified. However, Rich suggested volunteers could go up and
83 look at the traffic flow – and maybe the committee could look at the
84 staff hours and how they are spread across the week.
- 85
- 86 9. Composting – again it was agreed it would be beneficial to the trash
87 stream to do this, removing 25% of the waste. Greg suggested that if
88 the committee was to survey cars and traffic, maybe they could ask
89 residents about their willingness to compost at the dump at the same
90 time. Rich agreed it would be a good use of committee time.
- 91 LeeAnn was concerned not to throw the baby out with the bathwater.
- 92 Members discussed generally the issues around financial accountability
93 between the Transfer Station and the Town Office, and how this might be
94 addressed by coming up with a punch card system. It is not entirely known
95 how things are recorded for now, how Mary Hauptmann at the office does
96 this and what is shown about the sales of items at the Transfer Station. Would

97 it matter, for instance, to indicate if someone had used their card for green
98 bags or the disposal of microwaves?

99 There are many facets of a punch card system to consider. The goal is to
100 create a simple system, not one that is more complicated than the present
101 one, and certainly not something that will lead to more back-ups as people
102 drive in.

103 Rich knows that Epping uses such a system, having seen his brother's card.
104 Rich also showed a small business-size card he has for haircuts, with holes
105 punched out for the service. There was discussion about what happens if
106 there is something like \$2 left on a card – would a person be able to trade
107 that in or would it just go to the town? Fees should be set in line with
108 increments on the cards to minimize such situations. And in any case, the
109 reconciling of such sums should not be left to the places where the cards
110 would be sold (potentially the Country Store, Library and maybe town office).
111 Ideally there would be an inventory that can be accounted for, and monies
112 held at the town office securely. Whoever would sell the cards should get a
113 cut from the proceeds.

114 **Rich set homework for the committee members for the next meeting on**
115 **February 12. Look at the town website page with the fees listed for the**
116 **Transfer Station and create a make-believe punch card to show what it could**
117 **include, covering everything that is on that webpage. Consider if any fees**
118 **need changing. Draw it on 11x7 size paper for ease. Emily pointed out color**
119 **could be used. Greg noted that for folks who live paycheck to paycheck cards**
120 **would need to be available in smaller denominations.**

121 **Greg also asked if the committee should look at other towns who are doing**
122 **this rather than reinventing the wheel. He said he would be willing to**
123 **investigate more about how it works in Epping.**

124 LeeAnn raised the issue of what the committee was not told last meeting
125 about costs. They heard about how much revenue came in from some
126 recyclables but did not hear the cost of making that money, and the cost of
127 salaries and so on. Rich had calculated that something like \$11,907 had been
128 made, with money being made on such items as cardboard, mixed paper,
129 aluminum cans, but that did not take into consideration all the costs of the

130 operation. Greg suggested that thinking about the overall profitability of the
131 Transfer Station was too much for this year, but something to think about
132 next year.

133 **4. Adjournment**

134 Kent made a motion to adjourn and Greg seconded. It was 4.30 pm.

135 **Action Items**

- 136 • Kent follow up on the electric work at the dump for lighting
- 137 • Members homework to research fees webpage and create a mock
- 138 punch card in relevant increments of dollars
- 139 • Greg to find out more about how punch card system works in Epping.
- 140 • Chair keep a list of the tasks members had agreed to work on this year

141 Respectfully submitted,

142 Lois Scribner, secretary

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