

1 **Final Minutes - Solid Waste Committee meeting**

2 **Monday December 11, 3.30 pm, Meeting House**

3 **Members Present**

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

6 **Members absent**

7 Greg Heath

8 **1. Call to Order**

9 Rich Marcou called the meeting to order at 3.30 pm.

10 **2. Previous Minutes of November 20**

11 Kent Ruesswick moved, and Emily Burr seconded, and all present voted in favor of
12 approving the Minutes from November 20.

13 **3. Roster Changes**

14 Rich noted that the roster needed some updating and cleaning up. Jack and Lisa
15 Travis should be taken off. **Secretary to ask Kal to take Jack and Lisa Travis off**
16 the online webpage. Carol Flavin-Veenstra has already been removed following
17 her email letter of resignation. Kent had spoken to Kim but she is not in a position
18 to return at this point so she should also be removed from the email list.

19 In the context of this discussion, Emily Burr said she will stay on committee if the
20 members wanted but she no longer wanted to run the Treasure House. It won't
21 run itself. She has a lot of data about folks who have volunteered. Sometimes
22 they don't show up or get substitutes. **Steve Rasche volunteered to take on the**
23 **coordination of the Treasure House**, and members expressed appreciation for his
24 offer.

25 **4. Town Report for Town Meeting from the Solid Waste Committee**

26 The secretary had learned that the deadline was to be January 31, 2024. **Rich**
27 **agreed to start a draft for the town report and Emily will write a piece for the**
28 **Treasure House over this year.** There has been a lot of work going on and as Kent
29 noted, money has been made recently from some recycled metals.

Steve said to include shout out for the staff. Rich will go through minutes to pull out highlights from the past year.

5. Questions for the Transfer Station staff

Rich had asked members to look through a list of questions that the committee had produced.

Members discussed issues to do with how far questions might be perceived as 'leading' versus open ended, for example over the issue of the health concerns from the idling truck. It was felt that open-ended questions, and questions phrased to ask about what would be more helpful to them as workers, would be more fruitful in obtaining responses from all the staff at the Transfer Station. There could be different responses from different staff.

The issue of fee collection and consistency was agreed to be the manager's responsibility. This led to members discussing ways to take money out of the Transfer Station operation altogether. One suggestion Rich had was to use Punch Cards, like those he had seen in use at Epping. Residents buy them in advance from outlets in town and redeem them at the Transfer Station, in increments of \$5. So, no cash or card operation is needed at the dump itself. Members were enthusiastic about this idea, but it was tabled for a future discussion, in that more information is needed to move ahead with such a proposal and more preparation in terms of where such cards could be sold to residents in Canterbury.

It was agreed to **amend question 8a, and keep 8b, which has to do with cubic feet and weight and Rich wanted to have that conversation with David Bowles.**

For question 9, it was agreed to eliminate 9a and keep 9 b and 9c.

Discussion regarding question #10 raised the issue of green bags and the fact that some residents throw stuff out without using green bags and staff do not stop them. There was discussion about the purple bags used in and sold around Concord.

For question 10c it was agreed to add Punch Card to the list of alternatives.

Members discussed how to go about asking the questions of the Transfer Station staff one the list was compiled and edited. **There was general agreement that David should come first, as manager, and see the questions in advance so he**

could prepare how to answer. He could be paid for that hour of attending and it was hoped to do that on January 8, 2024. It was felt that all staff there should participate. The secretary offered to interview the other members of staff at the Transfer Station and write their answers to the questions. Hopefully this could happen if David agreed, and maybe take place the day after David attends the committee – so on Tuesday January 9, when the TS opens at noon.

So Rich agreed to edit the list of questions and also speak to Dave about attending on Monday January 8, and allowing his staff to participate in work time, on Tuesday January 9.

5. Other Business

Kent shared that he had seen an advertisement for composting machines that go on kitchen counter tops costing \$300. There was concern expressed by others that these use a lot of energy to compost food in record time.

6. Adjournment

Rich requested a motion to adjourn. LeeAnn seconded and all voted in favor. It was just after 4.30 pm.

Next meeting will be on Monday January 8, 3.30 pm IN THE LIBRARY as the Meeting House is booked for the Select Board.

Action items

- Secretary to get roster cleaned up with Kal in town office
- Rich to start draft for Town Meeting town report
- Emily to draft short piece about Treasure House this year
- Emily to prepare to hand over Treasure House data to Steve to take over
- Rich to edit questions for TS staff
- Rich to ask Dave about attending Jan 8 and staff being interviewed Jan 9 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Scribner, secretary.

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