

Town of Waldoboro, Maine
Transfer Station Committee Meeting Minutes
Municipal Building - 1600 Atlantic Highway
Thursday, October 13, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order** – Ted Wooster, Waldoboro Selectman and Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum present. Other committee members present were:

Liz Dinsmore, Friendship Select Board
Terry Gifford, Waldoboro Waste Hauler
Will Payson, Cushing Select Board
Randy Robbins, Cushing Citizen
Monika Magee, Cushing Citizen
Bob Butler, Waldoboro Citizen

Others in attendance: John Spear, Waldoboro Town Manager; John Daigle, Waldoboro Department of Public Works; and John Meyn

2. **Citizen Comments - None**

3. **Minutes** –Will Payson moved and Randy Robbins seconded that the Committee approve the minutes of the September 22nd meeting. All committee members present voted in favor of the motion.

4. **Penobscot Energy Recovery Company.** (PERC). John Spear provided the Committee with a summary of a recent conversation he had with Greg Lauder, Executive Director of the Municipal Review Committee.

The purpose of the Municipal Review Committee is to look after the interests of those communities, which are charter members of PERC.

PERC's charter municipalities hold, in aggregate, 24% of PERC's equity. US Energy Group (25%), PERC Holdings (24%), and others (17%) hold the remaining 76%.

Each of Waldoboro, Cushing, and Friendship has a separate relationship with PERC; all three towns are charter equity holders, owning part of the 24% equity charter municipal members hold. Of the garbage or trash tonnages the Waldoboro Transfer Station sends to PERC, 16.2% and 17.8%, are allocated to Friendship and Cushing, respectively. The remaining 66% is attributed to Waldoboro.

The Waldoboro Transfer Station's current contract with PERC runs until 2018. The contract requires the Waldoboro Transfer Station to ship stated tonnages to PERC annually. PERC requires the tonnages to meet its energy delivery commitments and accurately to determine the mix of inputs it needs to produce its energy. If a PERC member meets or exceeds its contractual commitment to PERC, PERC does not assess a penalty. PERC does assess a penalty if charter members do not deliver their committed tonnages.

The charter members of PERC are allowed to “pool” their annual tonnage commitments to PERC for purposes of penalty assessment. If the pooled tonnages delivered meet the pooled commitments, PERC does not assess a penalty against a charter member, which fails to meet its individual commitment.

The Waldoboro Transfer Station failed to deliver its agreed-upon tonnage to PERC in 2010 and paid a penalty of about \$3,100. That penalty is allocated *pro rata* to each of the Transfer Station Partners.

The Waldoboro Transfer Station was not the only PERC member that paid a penalty in 2010. The pooling arrangement among charter members did not come to the Transfer Station’s aid. PERC assessed penalties against *all* PERC members in 2010. The reasons are varied: single-stream recycling is reducing the amount of trash tonnage available for PERC; the underperforming economy means that people are purchasing less and have less trash to through away. PERC assessed aggregate penalties of \$98,000 in 2010.

The 2010 penalty *would* have been \$103 per ton as opposed to the \$65 per ton PERC assessed. PERC was able to purchase “spot” trash from non-participating communities at competitive rates to offset the penalty.

John Spear confirmed Greg Lauder’s willingness to meet with the Transfer Station Committee.

John Daigle noted that the Transfer Station pays \$2,000, including tipping fees and round-trip hauling expense, to ship each trailer load of trash to PERC.

5. Discussion of New Ordinance Draft

The Committee continued its discussion of the new ordinance, commenting on Draft #18. Unresolved is the language for Section 2.3.5 of the draft ordinance: Dumping Areas, Dumping Fees, Littering, and Unacceptable Waste.

The State of Maine mandates recycling. As drafted Section 2.3.5 calls for penalties against those who deposit Garbage or Trash without depositing Recyclables. It also requires *all* Solid waste generated within the borders of the Partners and Waldoboro to be discarded at the Transfer Station.

The following are some of the concerns raised concerning Section 2.3.5, with responses:

- a. The Section, as drafted, makes an exception concerning the deposit of Compostable Waste. John Spear suggested that an exception also be made for Demolition Debris that goes into the Landfill. Not requiring Landfill Demolition Debris to be deposited at the Transfer Station will extend the life of the Landfill.
- b. Some committee members believe it is sufficient to penalize those who do not deposit recyclables at the Transfer Station by charging a dumping fee. Their concern is that to do otherwise will run counter to current practices and exacerbate issues with some haulers.

- c. Other Committee members believe ALL collected recyclables should be deposited at the Transfer Station in order to prevent the loss of potential revenues to Lincoln County Recycling. Imposing a penalty, which the Waldoboro Transfer Station would collect, would not recover lost Lincoln County Recycling revenues.
- d. John Daigle suggested the committee look at the old ordinance for guidance
- e. Terry Gifford raised the point that some people don't generate Recyclables. Others simply don't bring Recyclables to the Transfer Station when they bring their Garbage or Trash. Section 2.3.5, as drafted, would penalize such behavior. It was pointed out that the Transfer Station Committee could deal with such instances on a case-by-case basis.

The Committee agreed to continue its discussions of the draft ordinance at its next meeting.

6. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next Transfer Station Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Randy Robbins moved, and Ted Wooster seconded that the meeting adjourn. All committee members present voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted: Liz Dinsmore and Bob Butler

Approved:

Transfer Station Committee:
Town of Waldoboro, Maine

_____ Bob Butler, Chairman

_____ Ted Wooster, Vice Chairman

_____ Liz Dinsmore, Friendship Select Board and Secretary

_____ Terry Gifford, Waste Hauler, Waldoboro

_____ (ABSENT) John Higgins, Waldoboro Citizen

_____ Monika Magee, Cushing Citizen

_____ Will Payson, Cushing Select Board

_____ (ABSENT) Bruce Prior, Cushing Hauler

_____ Randy Robbins, Cushing Citizen