

Town of Waldoboro, Maine
Transfer Station Committee Minutes
Meeting #3
Thursday October 11, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

1. Bob Butler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

Robert Butler*, Waldoboro Representative
Liz Dinsmore*, Friendship Select Board
John E. Meyn*, Friendship Representative
John Higgins*, Waldoboro Alternate sitting in for Ted Wooster
Will Payson*, Cushing Select Board
Bruce Prior*, Hauler Representative
Randolph Robbins*, Cushing Representative
Monika Magee, Cushing Alternate

*Denotes Voting Committee Member

Also present were John Spear, Waldoboro Town Manger, Alan Magee, Cushing Resident, and Steve McClain, Waldoboro Resident.

Note: Terry Gifford, Waste Hauler Alternate, was absent.

2. Determination of the presence of a Quorum (5 Committee members must be present)

By consensus, the Committee determined that a quorum was present and that the committee could transact business.

3. Distribute the basic Committee Documents: Copies of the Ordinance and the MSA.

The Chairman explained to John Spear, Waldoboro Town Manager, that this item had been on the agenda since the first meeting. John Daigle had indicated there were no funds in the budget to copy and distribute the two documents to committee members. John Spear said he would look into it. John Spear pointed out that the documents are on the Town's website.

4. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

Bob Butler mentioned a Waldoboro citizen had expressed concern about treacherous footing at the Transfer Station during the winter months. The citizen was concerned that older, or disabled, or handicapped users of the Transfer Station could slip and fall on icy surfaces. The citizen suggested that special containers could be set up in a safe area where people could sort their Solid Waste without the danger of slipping and falling.

Committee members generally felt that the concern was important but pointed out that people facing such predicaments need only ask for help from the Transfer Station attendants.

Bob Butler asked if John Daigle had investigated with Lincoln County Recycling the possibility of leaving at the Transfer Station, a dumpster to accept compostable materials. John Spear reported that Lincoln County will take compostable materials from individuals

for free and from the towns if the towns pay to have the dumpster removed. John Spear reminded the committee that Waldoboro does not have a license from DEP to compost. The suggestion is to compost individually as much as possible. People do complain, sometimes, that the Transfer Station is not able to take leaves and grass. Monika Magee suggested that those who do not, or who are not able to, compost give their compostable materials to neighbors who are composting.

Bob Butler conveyed to the committee Will Payson's complaint against the MRC about not providing timely announcements for scheduled MRC meetings. Both Cushing and Waldoboro did not receive notice of the September meeting in time to make arrangements to attend. John Spear confirmed he will contact MRC to register the complaint. Will and Randy have agreed to attend the next MRC meeting.

John Higgins spoke at length about the absence of sufficient funds in the current budget and in the Transfer Reserve Account to carry the cost of the improvements and changes under discussion, including a scale, changes in traffic flows and the construction of pads.

5. John Spear, Waldoboro Town Manager. Comments concerning: (1) a fee based system for solid waste disposal and (2) attendance of the Transfer Station operator at Transfer Station Committee meetings

John Spear reported his mentioning at the last Waldoboro Select Board meeting that there was no longer sufficient time available to include consideration of a fee-based solid waste disposal method on the November ballot.

He also pointed out that time had run out on transitioning such a system into next year's budget. John confirmed that he was not advocating for or against such a system, but merely pointing out that the window of opportunity had passed and would not reappear until the Fall of 2013. John Spear had been under the impression the ad hoc committee was to investigate a fee-based system and to make a recommendation and failed to do so. He wanted to clear the air and to point out that time had elapsed. He said the Selectmen didn't seem to be concerned.

Will asked if the Waldoboro Select Board feels the ad hoc Transfer Station Committee did not do its job. John Spear did not know the answer to that. John Spear did mention that during the Select Board meeting, Ted Wooster pointed out that the ad hoc Transfer Station Committee was deeply involved with completing the new ordinance and Municipal Services Agreement and wanted to see how matters develop under the new Ordinance before advocating for or against a fee-based system.

John Spear did think some Budget committee members will express their dissatisfaction during the coming budget season.

Randy asked if "fee based" means something other than pay-per-bag and pointed out that the Transfer Station Committee needs to address the issue of scales if a fee-based system based upon weight is to be considered.

John Spear also addressed the committee concerning the attendance of the Transfer Station Operator at Transfer Station Committee meetings. He emphasized that John Daigle is the "Acting Manager" of the Transfer Station Manager. There is currently no "Transfer Station Manager", per se. The Department of Public Works had advertised the Manager position and had not been able to hire a full-time manager. The Manager position at the Transfer Station is currently not funded. The Town voters approved the current budget, which endorses the current arrangement. The current Transfer Station Operator is a wage earner, not a salaried employee. Were the Operator to attend Transfer Station Committee meetings, the Town would have to pay him overtime, in accordance with the Fair Labor

Standards Act.

John Spear is cognizant of the Transfer Station Committee's desire to have the Transfer Station Operator attend its meetings. And, he's willing to change his mind to permit such attendance if he can be convinced that he should change his mind. He asked the committee why he should make the change?

Committee members pointed out that the Operator is at the Transfer Station during all hours of operation, John Daigle is not. John Daigle has other responsibilities, which limit the amount of time he can devote to the Transfer Station, A re-design of the Transfer Station is now under consideration, as is a decision to purchase scales. The Operator could have important ideas concerning both matters. Moreover, the Transfer Station Operator is in constant touch with the members of the public who use the Transfer Station. He gets feedback and opinions, which could be important for committee members to know about. There are pieces to the puzzle that John Daigle, as Acting Manager, simply cannot provide.

John Spear emphasized his concern that the Committee might interject itself into a supervisory role if the Operator were to attend Transfer Station meetings. He said that if it's just a matter of information flow, that may be workable.

Liz Dinsmore said the Transfer Station Operator doesn't need to be present at every meeting, but not having him present at any meetings detracts from the committee's ability to deliberate.

6. Scott McLain – Commercial Tire disposal and the new ordinance

Scott McLain attended the Transfer Station Committee meeting to present points of view concerning the new ordinance and other matters.

Mr. McLain owns and operates an auto repair business in Waldoboro. He pays taxes and believes his business should be able to use the Transfer Station for the disposal of worn tires. The new Solid Waste and Required Recycling Ordinance prohibits businesses—but not individuals-- from disposing of tires at the Transfer Station. Mr. McClain had phoned the Committee Chairman to register a complaint about the new ordinance; the chairman encouraged him to attend this meeting of the Transfer Station Committee.

Mr. McLain reported to the committee that, since registering his initial complaint with the committee chairman, he has located a company based in South Portland that will pick up his worn tires for \$2.00 per tire. The only requirement is that he has a minimum of 25 tires. This new arrangement actually works better for him because he does not have to transport the tires for disposal. The service is once a week, which means he may have to stockpile tires until he meets the minimum requirement. (He was under the initial impression that the service required a minimum of 100 tires.)

Randy asked if the company takes all sizes of tires. Mr. McClain said they do, and they don't care whether or not the rims are removed. (Rims are #1 steel, which, in today's market, is worth \$225/ton.

Mr. McLain believes the Transfer Station can realize more revenues by better and more efficient handling of metal items, including aluminum, steel, stainless steel and even some waste automobile parts. (He would exclude brake parts, which have contaminants.) He suggests the town excavate space from the bank at the Transfer Station to accommodate one or more containers, which Clark's, for example would leave for free. The containers would receive different types of metal. When full, Clark would then remove the full containers and leave a replacement empty, paying for the metal removed.

Mr. McLain noted that the Transfer Station Budget passed with flying colors.. In his view it's because the Transfer Station is run efficiently and enjoys public support.

Mr. McLain believes pay-per-bag not a good idea. His response to the argument that people should pay for what they discard is that there are lots of things the public pays for that they may not use.

7. Review of John Daigle's request of the Garden Club to trim the bushes its members planted around the sign at the entrance to the Transfer Station

John Spear passed along John Dailgle's view that trimming around the sign at the entrance to the Transfer Station will be moot if the Transfer Station installs scales.

8. Discuss with John Daigle any movement concerning the Draft Report from Pine Tree Engineering. Discuss Software for the scale. (Rule of thumb: Select the software, then purchase the hardware.)

John Spear reported on behalf of John Daigle that John Daigle had received a revised proposal for scales. He stated his opinion that installation of scales will very likely require an additional Transfer Station employee, creating additional funding requirements for the Transfer Station budget.

Committee members expressed their continuing concern that a new scale would require operating software. Will Payson mentioned Creative Information Systems as a possible source. John Spear pointed out that scale software could become quite expensive.

John Spear expressed his view that a case for the installation of scales has not been conclusively made. He has been of the impression that the Committee is in favor of installing scales. Committee members emphasized that, while they see the potential usefulness of scales, it will not recommend them unless they make economic sense.

9. Organize efforts to draft scripts for LCTV re-cycling presentation

Randy, Will, Monika and Bob will meet at Monika's house on November 6th to develop a draft.

10. Review forms of Permits, decals and licenses for conformity with the new Solid Waste and Required Recycling Ordinance.

Randy, Will, Monika and Bob will meet at Monika's house on November 6th to review these items.

11. Other Business not on the Agenda.

The Committee determined to hold its next meeting on Thursday, November 8, 2012.

12. Review minutes of September 13rd meeting.

Liz Dinsmore reminded the Chairman that he had neglected to ask the Committee to review the minutes of the September 13th meeting. Will Payson moved to accept the minutes of the September 13th meeting. Randy Robbins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

13. Adjourn

John Meyn moved to adjourn the meeting. Will Payson seconded. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted: Liz Dinsmore, Secretary and Bob Butler, Chairman

Approved: Bob Butler, Chairman _____

John Higgins, Alternate _____

Elizabeth Dinsmore, Secretary _____

Will Payson _____

Bruce Prior _____

Randolph Robbins _____

John E. Meyn _____