

**Town of Waldoboro, Maine**  
**Minutes: Transfer Station Committee Meeting**  
**Municipal Building - 1600 Atlantic Highway**  
**Thursday September 12, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.**

1. Sign in and Call to Order. Bob Butler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Determine the presence of a Quorum (At least 5 of the 7 Committee members or their duly appointed alternates must be present.)

The following representatives were present at the meeting and constituted a quorum:

Bob Butler, Waldoboro Resident  
Ted Wooster, Waldoboro Select Board  
Martha Marchut, Cushing Select Board  
Will Payson, Cushing Resident  
Liz Dinsmore, Friendship Select Board  
John Meyn, Friendship Resident  
Terry Gifford, Alternate Hauler sitting in for Bruce Prior

The following individuals were also present at the meeting:

John Higgins – Waldoboro Alternate  
John Daigle – Waldoboro Public Works Department Director  
Alfred McKay – Waldoboro Transfer Station Operator  
Ronald Porter – R & D Trash Removal  
Jared Porter – R & D Trash Removal  
Scott Johnson – Thomaston Recycling  
Wayne Leeman – Joe's Rubbish Removal  
John Spear – Waldoboro Town Manager  
Ronald L. Miller – Waldoboro Select Board  
Lissa Bitterman – EcoMaine, Business Development Manager  
Dominik Lobkowicz – Lincoln County News

3. Review Minutes of August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Will Payson moved and Martha Marchut seconded to approve the minutes of the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. All voting members present voted in favor of the motion.
4. Discussion with Lissa Bitterman, Business Development Manager, EcoMaine: single stream recycling and solid waste disposal. Lissa and committee and audience members made the following points and raised the following questions:
  - a. 21 owner communities established EcoMaine as a tax-exempt enterprise, out of concern for the negative environmental impact of then current methods of handling solid waste. Subsequently, 27 additional communities joined the effort. Some of the 27 communities are dumping garbage, only. Others are bringing both garbage and recyclables to EcoMaine. Lissa pointed that that EcoMaine has a landfill, which accepts the ash remaining after EcoMaine incinerates the garbage. About 10% of the tonnage brought in for incineration remains to be deposited into the landfill.
  - b. EcoMaine also services for-profit companies, which provide industrial waste for incineration. However, EcoMaine's focus is the municipalities it serves.
  - c. EcoMaine emphasizes the State of Maine Hierarchy:

Reduce, Reuse Recycle  
Compost and Waste to Energy  
Landfill

- d. The recycling rates of the communities EcoMaine serves vary significantly. Pawnall, the highest, recycles 48%. The Cornish rate is between 5% and 6%. The average appears to be in the range of 25% to 30%. (**Note: Terry Gifford believes the percentage cited was 20%, not 25% to 30%.**)
- e. EcoMaine's goal is to help communities shift materials from the garbage and landfill streams to the recycling stream. Their primary effort is to educate member communities about recycling and to emphasize why recycling is good for the environment. EcoMaine's view is that tipping fees ultimately should be paid only for materials that have to further economic value. Some of EcoMaine's communities to get rid of their own recycled materials. EcoMaine has on staff a full-time environmental educator.
- f. EcoMaine has investigated the recovery of methane gas from an old landfill on their property. The landfill contains materials that were baled and buried years ago. Very little methane is left on site and the cost of recovering the methane does not justify the effort.
- g. EcoMaine is an ISO 14001 company, a certification, which, Bitterman said, confirms EcoMaine's excellence in environmental stewardship.
- h. EcoMaine's solid waste tipping hall accommodates 170,000 tons of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). The 7-story structure has a 4-ton waste grapple that deposits 2 to 3 tons of solid waste into EcoMaine's incinerators with each grapple cycle.
- i. Ted Wooster asked about pharmaceutical waste. Bitterman answered that it's now under study. She pointed out that EcoMaine's incinerator operates at a temperature of 1200 degrees Fahrenheit. This temperature is sufficient to destroy pathogens, including those trapped in pockets of ash.
- j. Water vapor emissions are 96% clean and are monitored constantly.
- k. Bitterman said that EcoMaine produces enough electricity to supply 101000 to 15,000 homes. A mere 10% of EcoMaine's generation capacity is needed to operate its facility.
- l. Bob Butler asked how much water is lost in the operation of EcoMaine's cooling towers. Ms Bitterman said she would get back to the committee with an answer. (In a subsequent e-mail to Bob Butler dated September 13, 2013, Ms Bitterman confirmed as follows: "As a follow up to the question you posed which I didn't know the answer to, I've spoken with the lead Engineer of our Waste to Energy Power Plant, Kevin Trytek, as well as our Environmental Specialist Mark Maritato and the answer is that we lose about 250,000 gallons of water vapor per day from our Cooling Towers.")
- m. Bitterman said that EcoMaine fields very few complaints about odors.
- n. Bitterman described efforts to remove ferrous and non-ferrous metals from 20 years' accumulation of incinerator ash.
- o. EcoMaine projects it will cap its existing landfill in 2038. The capping date is moved back as more space in the landfill is freed up from the recovery of ferrous and no-ferrous metals.
- p. EcoMaine is offering memberships for MSW disposal at a cost of \$55.85 per ton. This does NOT include transportation of the MSW to EcoMaine's incinerator. It does allow for the inclusion of 6 tires per load. EcoMaine cannot take pressure-treated wood or railroad ties. Eco-Maine charges \$49 per ton of Bulky Waste. Eco-Maine estimates that 50% of the MSW it receives for incineration could be recycled.
- q. EcoMaine processes 36,000 tons of recycled materials each year. The recycled materials are lighter and fluffier than MSW even when it comes in compacted. EcoMaine exercises a combination of manual and automatic sorting. 60% to 70% of the material is low-grade quality paper. EcoMaine uses an optical sorter to separate different types of plastic. Magnetic and eddy current methods are applied to sort out ferrous and non-ferrous metals. Most of the 17 to 30 manual sorters are separating paper and cardboard. Ms Bitterman said the advantages of single sort include its relative simplicity for residents, who require less storage place for recyclables in their home; easier collection and labor savings for haulers as no sorting is required a curbside or at transfer stations; and, possibly, savings for transfer stations, which may need less equipment.
- r. EcoMaine offers two different contractual arrangements. The Revenue Share Option allows participating communities to offset disposal costs by sharing in revenues realized from the sale of recyclables. EcoMaine divides total sales by tons processed. The average revenue thus obtained is fed into a matrix, which includes the operating costs of the building. Some communities could use revenue paybacks thus obtained to create sinking funds to cover losses realized during years of low revenues from sales. The Revenue Neutral Option does not permit the recovery of costs through

the sale of recyclables. There is no disposal charge, and there is no revenue recovery option. EcoMaine could assess a charge for substandard recyclables received. Contract terms for both options range from 1 to 5 years. Contracts are negotiable. Ms. Bitterman said she would send the committee copies of the pro forma contracts.

5. Discussion of Hauler Violations of Solid Waste Ordinance. Recommendations for Further Actions.

John Meyn made the following motion, which Martha Marchut seconded:

Moved that the Waldoboro Transfer Station Committee support the management of the Waldoboro Transfer Station in implementing procedures to charge permitted users as stipulated in Section A3 and Attachment B of Waldoboro's Solid Waste Disposal and Required Recycling Ordinance.

Six committee members voted in favor. Terry Gifford, the Haulers' Representative, abstained.

6. Littering Violation. Bob Butler reported, and Liz Dinsmore confirmed through the observations of a neighbor, that a hauler proceeded down Friendship Road with newspapers pouring out the back of his truck. The Committee Chairman noted the licensed plate of the offender and obtained the identity of the hauler from the Town Manager. During the meeting, the Committee Chairman asked Terry Gifford, the Alternate Haulers' Representative on the committee, to speak informally to the driver. (In a subsequent e-mail to Bob Butler, Terry expressed her opinion that the appropriate action would be for the person who witnessed the littering to report it to the police department. She did not recall mentioning that littering should be reported to the manager of the transfer station. Her e-mail continued: "The Littering took place outside of the station and I don't think the transfer station manager has any power of enforcement on our public roads. In fact, I don't believe it is the job of the transfer station employees to warn or enforce any violation on any property other than that of the station.")

7. Bob Butler reminded Committee members of the MRRRA announcement concerning the disposal of banned pesticides. Mainers are urged to take advantage of a free opportunity to dispose of banned or unusable pesticides that they may have in their homes or elsewhere on their properties. This October, the Maine Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) will team up with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to dispose of banned pesticides or pesticides that have become caked, frozen, or otherwise rendered unusable. **Registration by September 27, 2013, is mandatory—drop-ins are not permitted.** To register, get details, and learn important information about the temporary storage and transportation of obsolete pesticides, go to the BPC Web site at <http://www.thinkfirstspraylast.org> or call 207-287-2731. This free disposal program is open to homeowners, family-owned farms, and greenhouses. All people need to do is **register by September 27, 2013.**

8. Bob Butler reminded committee members off the MRRRA annual meeting and related events scheduled for October 28, 2013. Information is available on the MRRRA website: <http://www.mrra.net/>

9. Should the Committee recommend nominee(s) to Waldoboro Select Board to serve on the Municipal Review Committee (MRC)?

The Committee decided, by consensus, not to make any recommendations concerning this matter to the Waldoboro Select Board.

10. Report concerning Waldoboro Select Board action of Recommended Revisions to Attachment A.

Bob Butler reported that the Waldoboro Select Board approved the Committee's recommended changes to Attachment A with some exceptions as regards A3. The Select Board approved the following language for A3:

A3. Separation of Bulky Waste, Constructions Demolition Debris, Garbage or Trash, and Recyclables: Permitted Users, which include Waste Haulers, shall convey all

of their Solid Waste and Universal Waste to the Transfer Station. Waste Haulers shall convey all of the Solid Waste and Universal Waste with which their customers have entrusted them to the Transfer Station. Permitted Users shall separate their Recyclables, Trash, Bulky Waste, Compostable Waste, Universal Waste, Unacceptable Waste and Construction and Demolition Debris. The goal of this Ordinance is to achieve the highest possible level of recycling in order to reduce the amounts the Partners pay to have their Solid Waste transferred out of the Transfer Station. Only Garbage or Trash shall remain after such separation. All complaints due to non-compliance with this Ordinance shall be directed, first, to the WTS Manager and, if necessary thereafter, to the Transfer Station Committee pursuant to the terms of this Ordinance. All Solid Waste conveyed to the Transfer Station shall be deposited in accordance with the WTS Manager's directives, which shall be consistent with the purposes of this Ordinance.

11. John Higgins: Discussion of Lincoln County Recycling Budget

(The Committee Chairman deferred this agenda item to the October 10, 2013 meeting.)

12. Discussion of Potential Impact of Waldoboro September 10th Warrant Article on Transfer Station Operations (if applicable)

(The Committee did not address this issue. Waldoboro budgetary issues were unresolved as of the date of the September Transfer Station meeting.)

13. Discuss Committee Goals for the coming 12 Months

(The Chairman deferred this item to the October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.)

14. Progress Report/Recommendation on Scales

John Daigle had nothing to report concerning scales.

15. Progress Report on Day Pads

John Daigle had nothing to report concerning day pads.

16. Set agenda items of next committee meeting, scheduled for October 10, 2013 (Note: Will Payson will preside on October 10<sup>th</sup>)

The Chairman will set agenda items for the October meeting with Will Payson

17. Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted: Bob Butler, Chairman and Secretary John Meyn

Approved:

Bob Butler, Chairman (Waldoboro Resident)

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Will Payson, Vice-Chairman (Cushing Resident)

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John Meyn, Secretary

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Martha Marchut (Cushing Select Board)

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Liz Dinsmore (Friendship Select Board)

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Terry Gifford (Alternate Waste Hauler)

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Ted Wooster (Waldoboro Select Board)

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