

**Town of Waldoboro, Maine**  
**Transfer Station Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Municipal Building - 1600 Atlantic Highway**  
**Wednesday, June 4, 2014 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

1. Sign in and Call to Order
2. Determine presence of a Quorum (at least 5 of the 7 Committee members or their duly appointed Alternates must be present).

The following committee members were present and constituted a quorum:

Bob Butler – Waldoboro Resident  
Liz Dinsmore – Friendship Select Board  
Martha Marchut – Cushing Select Board  
Randy Robbins – Cushing Resident  
Ted Wooster – Waldoboro Select Board

Also present were Monika Magee, Cushing; Alan Magee, Cushing; John Higgins, Waldoboro; Ron Miller, Waldoboro

3. Discussion of Minutes of the May 8, 2014 Meeting:

Monika Magee pointed to two problems with the minutes, as drafted:

- The last sentence of the last paragraph of section 5 is an incomplete sentence. Bob Butler suggested adding the words “is collecting materials”.
- The last sentence of the last paragraph of section 6 would be clearer if it read, “It offers repeat customers a discount on items not collected for free.”

Ted Wooster moved that the committee approve the minutes, as amended. Liz Dinsmore seconded the motion. All voting members present approved the motion.

4. Review Submitted Waste Hauler Application Forms

Because John Daigle was not at the meeting and the Town Administrator was taking some time off, there were no Hauler Applications available. The committee agreed to meet prior to the end of the month to discuss applications if any were available for discussion.

5. Up-date from John Daigle concerning Morris Farm offer to sell Earth Tub

John Daigle was not available to provide additional information about the Green Mountain Technologies Earth Tub

John Higgins wondered how much need there might be for the composting tub. He said Lincoln County Recycling anticipates that the Waldoboro Transfer Station will be able to take advantage of its on-going composting pilot. Bob Butler reminded the committee that Lincoln County Recycling will make a bin available to the Transfer Station to collect compostable material but the Transfer Station will have to pay to have it truck away. Lincoln County would

not accept food waste under this arrangement.

John Higgins wondered what one could do with composted material in the winter. It will have to be stored. Is there a potential leachate problem from stored compost? Would the DEP have to get involved? Ted Wooster pointed out that frozen compost is not going to present a leachate problem. Monika said that once food and other compostable wastes are composted, the DEP considers the compost to be dirt.

Higgins wondered if haulers would participate in the composting effort, and if so, how they would handle compostable materials. Will their volumes present problems for the Transfer Station?

Bob Butler pointed out that any initial program would be a pilot program to determine demand for the service. Haulers would not be involved.

Ron Miller wondered whether composting at the transfer station is necessary as lots of people already have the domed composters available from the town office. The committee agreed we could check with Liam concerning the number of composters the town office has sold.

Alan Magee pointed out that compost freezes in the winter. Haulers collecting compost in pails would be faced with difficulties handling frozen compost.

Questions were raised about the costs of maintaining the Earth Tub. It was suggested that Morris Farms would have that information.

#### 6. Planet Aid Donation Boxes

Bob Butler handed out photocopies of an original Planet Aid Donation Brochure. He thought an article should be written to announce the Planet Aid collection bins are now at the Transfer Station. Ted Wooster thought we should hold back until we've made sure the announcement will not detract from Salvation Army efforts. Planet Aid and the Salvation Army appear to be seeking clothing from the same sources. Monika asked if Planet Aid would provide more brochures we could use as handouts at the Transfer Station. She said she'd listened to a presentation Planet Aid made at the recent MRRRA conference and was impressed that they will accept any kind of material, whether it be old shoes, old clothing, bedspreads, curtains and other cloth items

Bob Butler said the Planet Aid brochure represents a format the Transfer Station Committee might consider for its own brochure. The Planet Aid brochure is compact, has a lot of information, is printed on durable paper, and fits easily into one's pocket. Alan Magee said he'd make a stab at producing a re-cycling brochure using the same format. Bob Butler said that the budget for the Transfer Station Committee would have to include monies for printing the brochure.

Randy Robbins suggested that companies that foreclose on home should know about Planet Aid. Such homes inevitably contain clothing, old shoes and other items, in which Planet Aid would be interested,

#### 7. Scale: Report on progress from John Daigle

John Daigle was not present to make his report. Ted Wooster reported that the project requires about one additional month for completion of the engineering phase of the project.

John Higgins asked when the day pads would be completed.

8. Discuss Transfer Station Goals for:

- a. Fiscal Year 2014/15
- b. Medium Term
- c. Long Term

Major points of this discussion follow:

- a. What can the Transfer Station Committee do to anticipate the possible closing of the PERC incinerator?
- b. Ted Wooster said scales and the associated record keeping and data will be an important adjunct to determining future recommendations. He predicted there would be a drop in tonnage shipped to PERC as people find alternative ways of discarding their waste, such as recycling. He added that the scales could have a major impact on the behavior of haulers.
- c. Liz asked if the scales would be used just for haulers. We explained that the scales are for pick-up trucks and larger vehicles and will primarily be used to weigh Bulky Waste. Ted suggested the Transfer Station might need scales that weigh smaller amounts of up to 200 pounds.
- d. John Higgins raised a theoretical case of the hauler coming in with 1,000 plastic bottles, which would weigh very little, along with trash, which would weigh a lot. Meeting the 30% requirement using weight would be impossible. John argued that a volumetric standard should be applied. Randy said that John Daigle has tables to convert from weight to volume.
- e. Bob Butler argued that Pay-Per-Bag eliminates the time and confusion converting from weight to volume could take. Under pay-per-bag, transfer station patrons would purchase bags from the town. The proceeds of the bag sales would cover the cost of operating the transfer station. People would pay for what they throw away. John Higgins cited the case of Warren, which employs pay-per-bag and said their operation is not paying for itself. Monika and Alan Magee talked about the Town of Brewer, which switched to pay-per-bag and realized impressive results almost immediately. Garbage tonnage was about cut in half, from 3,000 tons to 1500 tons. Recyclables tonnage increase by 358%. On average, the town saved about \$200,000 per year. Alan suggested the Transfer Station Committee invite one of the presenters from Natural Resources Council to speak to the committee about pay-per-bag. Bob Butler emphasized that the degree of success with pay-per-bag is largely dependent upon the manner in which the system is implemented.
- f. Ron Miller said that the employees at the Transfer Station spend most of their time dealing with recycling issues. He said it's important to make recycling as easy as possible and wondered how much it's costing the town to do the job of Lincoln County Recycling.
- g. Alan Magee said that implementing new recycling methods requires the absolute support of elected officials. Educating the public about the advantages of new approaches is essential to success. Where pay-per-bag is concerned, he pointed out that it's important to set the initial price of the bags at an appropriate level, one that avoids future increases.
- h. Randy Robbins said we need a mission statement. Bob Butler drew his attention to Article I of the Waldoboro Solid Waste and Required Recycling Ordinance, which sets out the mission of the ordinance (and Transfer Station Committee) fairly succinctly. There was a general consensus that a new transfer station brochure could incorporate the mission objectives forth in the Article I of the ordinance.
- i. Bob Butler emphasized the need to obtain information from Lincoln County that permits a full analysis of the costs associated with the operation of Lincoln County Recycling. Decisions concerning single-stream recycling and the future direction of the Transfer Station demand that Lincoln County makes the information available. Martha Marchut moved that the committee forward to Waldoboro's Town Manager the draft letter Bob Butler submitted for the committee's consideration during the last meeting with the request that the Town Manager put it on the next Select Board agenda. Ted Wooster seconded the motion. All voting members present voted in favor of the motion.

j. A brief discussion of possible policy goals followed. Some of the goals mentioned were:

- (i) Make recycling easier
- (ii) Establish desired recycling rates with the objective of working towards zero waste.
- (iii) Educate and emphasize the financial rewards to be realized from such education
- (iv) Define a user fee system to improve the way trash is handled.
- (v) Composting to reduce the weight shipped to PERC
- (vi) Locate and apply for grant funding to achieve the foregoing goals

9. Next Meeting. The committee agreed to meet on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. ONLY if there are hauler license applications to consider.

10. Adjourn. It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Approved:

Bob Butler, Chairman (Waldoboro Resident)

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Liz Dinsmore. (Friendship Select Board)

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Randolph Robbins (Cushing Resident)

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Martha Marchut (Cushing Select Board)

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Ted Wooster (Waldoboro Select Board)

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