

**Town of Waldoboro, Maine**  
**Transfer Station Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Municipal Building - 1600 Atlantic Highway**  
**Thursday, April 9, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

- A. Sign in and Call to Order
- B. Determine the 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  
Elizabeth Dinsmore, Friendship Select Board  
Terry Gifford, Waste Hauler  
Martha Marchut, Cushing Select Board  
John Meyn, Friendship Resident  
Randolph W. Robbins, Cushing Resident  
Ted Wooster, Waldoboro Select Board

Also present were Ronald L. Miller, Waldoboro Select Board and Alternate; John Higgins, Waldoboro Alternate; Seth Hall, Waldoboro Alternate; Monika Magee, Cushing Alternate; John Daigle, Waldoboro Public Works Director; Ronnie Porter, Waste Hauler; Alan Magee, Cushing Resident

Prior to commencing with the items on the agenda, John Meyn asked to be recognized. He read his apology to all committee members, and to Terry Gifford, for raising his voice during the March 12<sup>th</sup> committee meeting.

- C. Discussion of the Minutes of the March 12, 2015 Meeting.

John Meyn moved to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2015 meeting as written. Randy Robbins seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 7 to 0.

- D. Report of the Committee Chairman

Bob Butler reported that the Waldoboro Town Office had submitted applications for Transfer Station Committee members' attendance at the MRRRA conference.

Butler asked John Daigle about progress concerning the transfer station scales. Daigle responded that he was waiting for a sub-contractor to install an internet connection between Nobleboro Road and the scale house. He thought June or July was a realistic time frame for completion and commissioning.

- E. Up-date on Municipal Review Committee (MRC)– John Meyn

John Meyn reported on the March MRC meeting. He announced that the MRC board member responsible for liaising with Waldoboro, Cushing and Friendship is Jim Guerra .

He said that he had volunteered to participate with the MRC group responsible for developing briefings to promote communities' awareness of MRC's efforts to make plans for the post April 2018 period. Those briefings will be an important adjunct to developing training

sessions for town residents of MRC's 187 charter communities.

Meyn said that the site lease between Fiberight and the MRC is under negotiation. That lease will ensure that the MRC communities maintain a measure of control over and participation in the Fiberight operation, which could potentially replace PERC.

MRC is expecting to have draft joiner agreements available for review at the next MRC board meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Meyn said that Fiberight has indicated its strong intention to proceed with the deal by budgeting \$250,000 to cover the preparation costs of its initial dealings with MRC.

On a more problematical level, the MRC is concerned that PERC may shut down before the March 31, 2018 termination date of its agreement. Prior to that date PERC will have to deal with some major capital costs. A boiler repair will be necessary in August of this year, and a turbine replacement will become necessary, as well—probably sometime during 2017. If PERC does not complete the boiler repair and turbine replacement, it will not be able to continue operating until the March 31, 2018 contract termination date. The turbine replacement, alone, would cost \$1 million. It is conceivable that the MRC communities could be faced with a 6- to 8-month period with no place to send their garbage. An interim need for trash disposal could arise.

Butler pointed out that PERC has obligations to supply electricity to Bangor as well as obligations to accept garbage from the 187 MRC communities.

Because of potential timing differences between a shutdown of PERC and the start-up of a replacement technology, John Daigle pointed out that tipping fees could potentially double.

#### F. Discussion of Application from Riverside Disposal, Chelsea, ME

John Daigle explained that the company had withdrawn the application. There was no need for any further discussion.

#### G. Discussion of letter from A-Plus Recycling and Rubbish Removal

Butler read the A-Plus Recycling and Rubbish Removal letter to the committee, written by Liam Ducharme, sole proprietor. The letter congratulated the committee on being so considerate to commercial haulers in view of the changes that had been in the traffic flow of the transfer station. He cited the absence of traffic blockage, easier access to the recycling bins, and the convenient location of the bins for #2 plastics and the barrels for glass and tins.

A-Plus also requested the committee to consider changes to the *Waldoboro Solid Waste and Required Recycling Ordinance*. He suggested that the ordinance be more specific in allowing all commercial haulers holding Waldoboro trash hauler licenses to be eligible to serve as the waste hauler representative on the Transfer Station Committee. He also suggested that the ordinance stipulate that the waste haulers, themselves, select their representative to the Transfer Station Committee. He pointed out that the Waldoboro Select Board currently appoints the position, but votes the committee waste hauler in to represent the Town of Waldoboro, not the haulers, themselves. He concluded that his suggestion would promote equal representation on the committee for all three towns that support the Transfer Station budget, making all three towns equal for recommendations to the Waldoboro Select Board.

There ensued a lengthy discussion concerning waste hauler input into the Waldoboro Select Board's appointment to the Waste Hauler seat on the committee. Bob Butler suggested that there is nothing in the present ordinance to prevent the haulers from organizing themselves to make recommendations to the Waldoboro Select Board. Ron Miller advised that this could be

done. Martha Marchut asked Miller if the Waldoboro Select Board would act on the choice of the haulers. Miller said he could not commit for the other members of the board. John Daigle said that haulers could indicate their choice of representative on the waste hauler license application form. Miller said it should be mandatory for the haulers to attend the Transfer Station Committee meetings at least twice during the course of a year. Butler pointed out that would be great, but enforcement could be difficult. All committee members agreed that it would be helpful if there were better communication with the haulers.

On the motion of John Meyn, the Committee authorized the committee chairman, Bob Butler, to respond, at his discretion, to A-Plus Recycling's January 19, 2015 letter. Ted Wooster seconded the motion. There were six votes in favor of the motion. Bob Butler abstained.

The chairman's response to the A-Plus letter on behalf of the committee is attached to these minutes.

- H. Convene Workshop to Frame Future Solid Waste Disposal Goals and Ways to meet them. Motion to come out of Workshop.

John Meyn moved that the committee convene the meeting to a workshop format. Randy Robbins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Bob Butler requested each committee member to suggest at least one goal for the committee to tackle. The following goals were suggested:

1. Integrate with the Municipal Review Committee's post-PERC vision and follow developments through to termination of the Charter Community's relationship with PERC on March 31, 2018
2. Maintain individual rights of patrons and haulers of the Transfer Station
3. Revisit the Municipal Sharing Agreement among the three Transfer Station Partners
4. Establish plans to educate citizens of the three Transfer Station Partners concerning upcoming solid waste disposal developments
5. Set and/or encourage reasonable recycling goals
6. Establish a clear understanding of the use of the scales for haulers and residents
7. Educate the people concerning the economic and environmental benefits of recycling
8. Make it mandatory for each of the three transfer station partners to establish their own community recycling committee
9. Have each of the three town's Select Boards and administrations explain why recycling is important. Put a public face in each town on the importance of recycling.
10. Aggressively pursue the implementation of Pay As You Throw
11. Make recycling as easy as possible
12. Cut the Transfer Station Budget by \$300,000
13. Achieve the Maine state recycling goal of 50%
14. Establish a compost program
15. Stop the micro-managing of the Transfer Station
16. Complete a cost/benefit analysis of Lincoln County Recycling
17. Complete a cost/benefit analysis of the new transfer station scale
18. Improve communications with the waste haulers
19. Invite Haulers to Transfer Station Committee meetings
20. Encourage committee members to be open and honest about their concerns. Improve community involvement in the business of the committee
21. Convince Lincoln County Recycling of the need to have all Lincoln County communities adopt a uniform solid waste and recycling ordinance.

The enumeration of the above goals elicited discussions around the following

- (i) Alan Magee asked what could be done to improve the participation of each of the

towns in recycling. He was especially interested in educating the citizenry about the positive environmental, social, and financial impacts recycling promotes. Bob Butler suggested that a public discussion of Pay-as-You-Throw (PAYT) would go a long way towards stimulating discussion and participation in all three towns. He pointed to the tremendous budgetary savings PAYT could realize (more than \$300,000 in the first year). He asserted that implementation of PAYT would require the approval of Waldoboro's voters and suggested that the issue be placed on the ballots of all three towns in order to gauge the level of acceptance. Ron Miller and Ted Wooster agreed that it was too late into the spring to place the issue on the June ballot. There seemed to be a consensus that the PAYT question should be placed on the ballot in November.

- (ii) There was a discussion of single-stream recycling. Miller said single-stream should be implemented at the same time as PAYT. Butler, Meyn, and Daigle pointed to Lincoln County Recycling (LCR), which doesn't do single-stream. Daigle emphasized the savings the towns realize from not having to pay for the transport of their recyclables to LCR. Adopting single-stream and having to dispose of the recyclables elsewhere could cost the towns more money for transport. Meyn thought single-stream might be an option when the Fiberright facility comes on-stream in 2018. Butler pointed to the huge sums we'd be unnecessarily spending for transport and tipping fees if PAYT is delayed for two-to three years. He suggested that some of the savings realized from PAYT could be used to support the cost of adopting single-stream. Butler warned, however, that the taxes Waldoboro now pays to Lincoln County to defray the costs of LCR would not go away were the Waldoboro Transfer Station to send its recycling elsewhere. Miller suggested that could challenge Lincoln County for the way it conducts its recycling program, which is losing money.
- (iii) Ron Miller brought up the idea that Waldoboro owns the transfer station. John Daigle disagreed, pointing out that Waldoboro owns the land, but that all three towns own the capital assets. Butler asked, "What's the point of this discussion about ownership?" The fact is that all three towns finance the operation of the transfer station. Singling out one town over the other two does nothing but cause unnecessary friction. "We're supposed to be working together to find common solutions to waste issues," Butler said. The creation of the Transfer Station Committee anticipated that cooperation among the three towns is vital to creating a positive and constructive atmosphere to keep down the costs of collecting and disposing of trash and recycling. Being divisive for no apparent reason does nothing to promote that cooperation.
- (iv) John Higgins suggested that the enumerated goals be grouped, as some of them are similar. Paring down the list to four or five items would allow the creation of a more realistic set of priorities upon which the committee could focus during the coming year. Bob Butler said he would send the list to all committee members within the next few days. He requested each member to select his or her five most important items for discussion during the May meeting.

#### I. May Meeting and Adjournment

Butler suggested that the May meeting focus on reports on the MRRRA conference and further discussions of the goals listed during the workshop.

John Meyn moved to adjourn the meeting. Randy Robbins seconded the motion. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Bob Butler, Chairman (Waldoboro Resident)

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Liz Dinsmore (Friendship Select Board)

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Terry Gifford (Waste Hauler)

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Martha Marchut (Cushing Select Board)

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John Meyn, Secretary (Friendship Resident)

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Ted Wooster (Waldoboro Selectman and Alternate)

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Randolph Robbins (Cushing Resident)

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**Attachments:**

- Letter from A-Plus Recycling and Rubbish Removal
- Response to A-Plus Recycling and Rubbish Removal