

Town of Waldoboro Maine

Transfer Station Committee Meeting Minutes

Municipal Building – 1600 Atlantic Hwy.

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 – 6:00 to 8:00 PM

1. Sign in and call to order: Bob Butler called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM on Wednesday, March 23, 2016.
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 Waldoboro Transfer Station Committee members were present and constituted a quorum:

Bob Butler, Waldoboro resident

Ron Miller, Waldoboro Select Board

Ted Wooster, Waldoboro resident

Randy Robbins, Cushing resident

Liz Dinsmore, Friendship Select Board

Abden Simmons, Waldoboro Select Board

Martha Marchut, Cushing Select Board

Note: Ted Wooster was absent after 7:00; Abden Simmons took his place during that time.

Also present:

John Daigle, Waldoboro Public Works Director

John Higgins, Waldoboro resident

Monika Magee, Cushing resident

Abden Simmons, Waldoboro Select Board

Alan Magee, Cushing resident

Wayne Leeman

3. Information Sharing: Committee Members, Haulers, and Director of Public Works: John Daigle passed out information on recycling and trash collection. He indicated that recycling is at 20% and that the new budget does not plan for an improvement. One hauler would like to get his

customers to compost. According to John Daigle, a hauler can accommodate compost simply by adding a barrel. There was a discussion regarding what can and cannot be composted through the new program; it was noted that more variety may be able to be accommodated as the program grows. In response to a question regarding whether increased composting will hurt us with regard to Fiberight, John Daigle indicated that there will still be plenty of organic material going to Fiberight.

4. Minutes of the March 10, 2016, 2016 Transfer Station Committee Meeting: Ron Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2016 Transfer Station Committee meeting. Ted Wooster seconded. Bob Butler questioned the information under part 6 of the minutes stating that it costs \$20.40 per ton to have our recycling sent to Lincoln County. This is an indirect cost and actually works out to approximately \$28 per ton. The motion passed 6-0.
5. Discussion of MRC/Fiberight project engineer's analysis and recommendation to Waldoboro Select Board: In preliminary discussion, it was noted that regarding Fiberight, if we withdraw and then decide to rejoin MRC later on, MRC will want the money we have gotten from PERC to be returned. Ron Miller indicated that the funds could be put in an escrow account for that purpose. John Daigle noted that the engineering study narrows our options down to three choices. Bob Butler made a motion that we go with the Crossroads Landfill as the post-PERC option. Ron Miller seconded. The following discussion points were covered: We may have to wait two and a half years before Fiberight comes on line. The landfill option is lowest on the State hierarchy list. Crossroads Landfill can only operate until 2025. If we care about the environment, we will stay away from landfills. The motion was defeated 6-0. In the discussion that followed, it was noted that EcoMaine is established, committed to recycling, and transparent in its operation. EcoMaine does not have a means of controlling CO2 emissions whereas Fiberight does. Fiberight hasn't been proven in the US. Shipping of waste with EcoMaine is substantially more costly than Fiberight for the first three years and somewhat more after that. If we wait and use EcoMaine (with funds in escrow), we can change after that if Fiberight is successful; however, it will cost us if we do this. We don't know how changes in subsidies will affect EcoMaine with respect to selling electricity. EcoMaine will have errors and omissions in spite of being an eco-friendly operation. PERC has not been equitable in the way it has charged (higher rates for Maine towns; lower rates for out of state waste). EcoMaine has room for only 40,000 tons and is looking for a commitment. If we wait two years, we may be hurt. With EcoMaine, we won't generate revenues from recyclables because we're not a charter member. The benefits of Fiberight were noted as follows: There will be credits with the State for recycling. Tipping fees for charter members will be offset over time. We will share in revenue increases as Fiberight gets above the 150,000 ton mark. Fiberight's cutting-edge technology has attracted interest and funding. MRC has a back-up plan if needed. If Fiberight fails, we have an investment in the property. Fiberight has been vetted by the University of Maine. Bob Butler made a motion to accept EcoMaine as the post-PERC option. In discussion, Randy Robbins noted that he doesn't know enough about Fiberight to vote on EcoMaine. The motion was defeated with one in favor, three opposed and two abstentions. (Bob Butler, Liz

Dinsmore, Randy Robbins opposed; Ron Miller in favor; Martha Marchut and Abden Simmons abstaining). Randy Robbins made a motion to stay with PERC after 2018. Ron Miller seconded. In discussion of the PERC option, the following points were made: PERC is a known entity. There is no compost removal program. PERC is not connected with MRC. There are high tipping and transport fees. We won't be allowed to participate in profits. The motion was defeated 6-0. Ron Miller made a motion to go with MRC/Fiberight as the post-PERC option. Bob Butler seconded. In discussion, the following points were made: We will own the land on which the facility is built. Fiberight pays for usage of sewer and water. MRC will represent our interests. If Fiberight isn't up and running on time, we don't have the option of going with another plan on an interim basis. The motion passed with a vote of five in favor and one abstaining (Ron Miller).

6. Discussion of whether the Transfer Station Committee should recommend to the Waldoboro Select Board that the MRC/Fiberight question be placed on the Waldoboro Warrant for June 2016: Bob Butler noted that the Committee needs to make a recommendation to the Select Board by next Tuesday so it can go on the Waldoboro warrant. Specifically, we need to recommend to the Select Board to commit to the Municipal Joinder Agreement with MRC. Following a brief discussion, Bob Butler made a motion to refer the town meeting form of warrant from MRC to the Waldoboro Select Board with a recommendation to place it on the Waldoboro warrant for the June 2016 vote. Abden Simmons seconded. The motion passed 6-0. Subsequently, Bob Butler made a motion to recommend to the Waldoboro Select Board that they commit to the MRC to enter into the Municipal Joinder Agreement on or before the May 1, 2016 deadline, subject only to the approval of the Waldoboro voters of the MRC warrant. Abden Simmons seconded. There was a brief discussion and the motion and second subsequently were withdrawn. Abden Simmons then made a motion to have Bob Butler draft a commitment letter to the MRC. Randy Robbins seconded. The motion passed 6-0. (This will be addressed to the MRC and signed by the Waldoboro Select Board and must be processed by April 12, 2016.)
7. Discussion of Draft White Paper about Unit-Based Pricing and possible recommendations to the Waldoboro Select Board: Bob Butler requested that the Committee submit a White Paper about Unit-Based Pricing (Pay as You Throw) along with recommendations to the Waldoboro Select Board. In the subsequent discussion, the following points were made: There currently is no financial incentive to recycle. This is unfair to all because taxes are going up. The White Paper recommends the establishment of a hardship fund for residents who cannot afford the cost of Pay as You Throw bags. When Pay as You Throw (PAYT) has been recommended in the past, it has not gotten past the Select Board. We can have workshops with all three member towns to review the plan. Savings generated by PAYT would come directly off the Transfer Station budget, according to John Daigle. Ron Miller brought forward the following questions/concerns on behalf of Clint Collamore: Is the entire Committee in agreement? How much will the tax rate actually be reduced? In response, it was pointed out that, as already noted, savings will come directly off the Transfer Station budget. Will trash by the side of the road be likely to increase? This seems unlikely, since most trash left by the side of the road is bulky waste, which is not

eligible to be recycled anyway. Would the Select Board be burdened with many meetings needed to address requests for assistance from needy residents? Committee members felt that this was unlikely. If this is on the June warrant, will it confuse people? It was suggested that it could be put on the November warrant when more residents would be likely to vote. Bob Butler made a motion to refer the (Waldoboro Transfer Station Committee) Unit-Based Pricing (PAYT) study to the Waldoboro Select Board with a recommendation that they put PAYT on the November ballot. Randy Robbins seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

8. MRRA Conference – May 3 and 4 at Samoset: Information on the MRRA Conference was passed out. A final attendance count will follow.
9. Discuss Agenda for the April Meeting: The next meeting will be Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 6:00. There was a brief recognition of the respectful and productive work of the members of the Transfer Station Committee.
10. A motion to adjourn was made by Ron Miller and seconded by Abden Simmons. The motion was approved with a vote of 6 – 0 and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Bob Butler, Waldoboro resident

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