

Town of Waldoboro Maine

Transfer Station Committee Meeting Minutes

Municipal Building – 1600 Atlantic Hwy.

Thursday, May 12, 2016 – 6:00 to 8:00 PM

1. Sign in and call to order: Bob Butler called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM on Thursday, May 12, 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

John Meyn, Friendship resident

Randy Robbins, Cushing resident

Wayne Luce, Hauler Representative

Martha Marchut, Cushing Select Board

Also present:

John Daigle, Waldoboro Public Works Director

John Higgins, Waldoboro resident

Ted Wooster, Waldoboro resident

Linda-Jean Briggs, Waldoboro Town Manager

3. Information Sharing: Committee Members, Haulers, and Director of Public Works: There were no questions from the haulers. John Higgins suggested that the committee on scales be disbanded since we still can't define the impact of the scales on recycling. John Daigle passed out a brochure from the Epilepsy Foundation detailing a free collection service for clothing and related household materials that they may be able to offer. The Foundation will provide and service three recycling bins and expects to deliver them in the next couple of weeks. According to the Town Manager, the organization is based in Massachusetts and has done a fair amount in southern New

Hampshire and southern Maine. They partner with a chain store called Savers. In response to a question from Ron Miller, John Daigle indicated that we would not be looking to place bins in downtown Waldoboro at this time. John also suggested that we refrain from making an official announcement about this service until the details have been finalized and the bins are in place.

4. Report from the Committee Members who attended the Maine Resource Recovery Association (MRRRA) Conference: Town Manager, Linda-Jean Briggs, reported on the innovative presentation by the CEO of Lamey Wellingham. She also reported on what she learned from the representative at the Coca Cola booth regarding the variety of plastic bags and packaging that can be taken to Hannaford for recycling. She also noted that the Samoset Resort has a sustainability model which includes the use of recyclable or biodegradable materials and the composting of all food scraps for use in their vegetable gardens. The Samoset also partners with Clean the World through which discarded soaps and shampoos are recycled for use in disadvantaged countries. John Daigle noted that according to the Department of Environmental Protection, standard operating procedures are needed for food waste. Randy Robbins reported on what's next in recycling, noting the need for cooperation, particularly given the tension between a fast-changing world and slow-to-respond infrastructure. He noted the need for restaurants to pass on food they don't serve and highlighted the fact that organics constitute 40% of the current waste stream. In response to a question from Ron Miller, John Daigle noted that Styrofoam was not addressed and that it goes in the hopper at this point. Martha Marchut reported on a study indicating that 40% of food now is eaten outside the home and that people behave differently with regard to recycling when they aren't at home. Much of the food eaten outside the home is wrapped in plastic, as well as food that is discarded. Bob Butler offered the quotation that "the mark of an educated mind is to entertain an idea without accepting it." He reported on the precepts for zero waste for business; taking back used products, knowing your trash (knowing what you throw away), paying attention to what you're using in the manufacturing process, cleaning with cloths that can be laundered, and switching from plastic to glass and metal. According to Bob, USZWBC.org is the web site for a group of companies that are trying to get to zero waste. Bob Butler also reported on the Skowhegan composting system, a program started by a Skowhegan science teacher. The start-up cost was \$1000, and the program saved \$23,000 in one year based on the amount of weight removed from the trash. The the students run the program and intend to use the compost in raised beds where food for the cafeteria will be grown. Bob also asked whether we should consider renaming our committee the Sustainability Committee. He noted that Tim Twist, a sustainability manager, lives in Waldoboro and might be a resource.

5. Minutes of the March 23, 2016 and April 14, 2016 Transfer Station Committee Meeting: John Meyn made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 23, 2016 and April 14, 2016 meetings. Martha Marchut seconded. The motion for the March 23, 2016 minutes passed with a vote of 5 in favor and 2 abstaining. The motion for the April 14, 2016 minutes passed with a vote of 4 in favor and 3 abstaining. Alternate, Ted Wooster participated in the voting.
6. Report from the Committee Chair: Bob Butler reported that a commitment letter has been sent to MRC. Regarding EcoMaine, Lisa Bitterman told Bob at the MRRRA conference that EcoMaine supports Fiberight. She added that EcoMaine is not actively soliciting new members. In response to someone who approached EcoMaine, she came up with 5, 10, 15 and 20-year contract options and a tipping fee of \$70.50 per ton. Bob also reported that Fiberight has pushed back their commitment dates. According to Stuart Paul of Fiberight, they now have enough committed tonnage to begin construction even though they have not yet reached their 150,000 ton goal. Bob also reported that the Article regarding Waldoboro committing to continue with MRC after 2018 is on the Warrant for Waldoboro. On another note, Bob informed the Committee about an award given to Monika Magee in 1994. On May 3, 1994, she received the Creative Town Initiative Award from MRRRA in recognition of her work on recycling. Bob commended Monika and noted that in the 22 years since receiving that award, Monika has continued this work.
7. Report from Randy Robbins concerning Penobscot Study about PERC: Randy Robbins reported on the Town of Penobscot's evaluation of PERC versus Fiberight as an option for post 2018 as follows:
 - a. PERC
 - i. PERC is viable until 2035.
 - ii. PERC will only function during peak hours.
 - iii. PERC's tipping fee will be \$84.36 per ton with annual changes based on CPI.
 - b. Fiberight
 - i. The scale-up size of Fiberight is feasible.
 - ii. Thirty-three percent of MSW is separated and recycled.
 - iii. Liability is uncertain due to newness.

- iv. It is unclear what the labor requirements will be.
- v. Reliability is uncertain because of the complexity of the plant.
- vi. Sale of recyclables will contribute 21% to revenues.
- vii. Revenues from biogas sales is minor.
- viii. Most revenues come from tipping fees.

Penobscot would like PERC and Fiberight to work together and will probably will stay with PERC until Fiberight is up and running. Penobscot also considered landfills.

8. Discussion with Director of Public Works Department about Current and New Initiatives:

- a. Invoicing of haulers who are not recycling: John Daigle handed out information on hauler recycling percentages for the month of April and discussed one hauler whose recycling is negligible. Hauler Representative Wayne Luce noted that he has changed the way he does things and is looking at other changes including working with AI at the Transfer Station on a specific delivery time. In response to a question from Randy Robbins about why recycling appears to have dropped, John indicated that we may have overstated volume in the past. Also, since the Transfer Station is not open on Mondays, we're not weighing loads picked up by Lincoln County Recycling on those days.
- b. Review of one hauler's efforts to encourage customers to recycle: John Daigle reported that one hauler is handing out recycling brochures to his customers; this seems to be having a positive effect on recycling. In response to a question from Ted Wooster, John noted that haulers tend to figure out needed changes on their own, rather than wanting help from John and his staff. Wayne Luce asked whether haulers might be able to come in before 10:00. Regarding the question about the scale paying for itself, John Daigle noted that we've dropped 1000 tons of waste since the scales went into operation, largely due to eliminating trash from people who weren't supposed to be taking material to the Transfer Station. He added that once everything is done by weight, it would be easier to figure out how much the scale is helping.
- c. Progress on day pads for sheetrock and shingles: No new information was provided.

9. Further discussion of steps to inform voters in Waldoboro, Cushing and Friendship about continuing as a Charter Member of MRC: John Daigle indicated that he would put

together a short comparison of EcoMaine, PERC and Fiberight. He also may put information in the local newspaper. The Waldoboro Public Hearing on the Waldoboro Warrant is scheduled for May 24th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

10. Discussion of Agenda for June 9, 2016 Meeting: The next meeting will be Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 6:00.

11. A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Butler and seconded by Randy Robbins. The motion was approved with a vote of 6 – 0. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Bob Butler, Waldoboro resident

Ron Miller, Waldoboro Select Board

Wayne Luce, Hauler Representative

John Meyn, Friendship resident

Randy Robbins, Cushing resident

Martha Marchut, Cushing Select Board
