

**Town of Waldoboro, Maine**  
**Transfer Station Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Municipal Building - 1600 Atlantic Highway**  
**Wednesday, August 3, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order** – Bob Butler, Waldoboro citizen, called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. with a quorum present. Other members present were:

Terry Gifford, Waldoboro Waste Hauler  
John Higgins, Waldoboro Citizen  
Monika Magee, Cushing Citizen  
Will Payson, Cushing Select Board  
Bruce Prior, Cushing Waste Hauler  
Randy Robbins, Cushing Citizen  
Ted Wooster, Waldoboro Select Board

Liz Dinsmore, Friendship Select Board, was not able to attend.

**Others Present** - John Daigle, Head of Waldoboro Public Works

2. **Election of Officers** – The Committee voted unanimously to appoint the following committee officers:

Chairman: Bob Butler  
Vice-Chairman: Ted Wooster

The consensus of the committee was to request the Waldoboro Town Administrator to construct minutes of future meetings using digital recordings. Bob Butler volunteered to take notes and to write the minutes for this first meeting of the Committee. The recording equipment in the Conference Room had been unplugged by previous users and could not be operated to record this meeting.

3. **Goals** – The Committee, by consensus, determined it should set the following goals for itself. They are not prioritized.

- Draft a new Ordinance;
- Research Pay per Bag;
- Prepare for the closure of the present landfill scheduled for the spring of 2012 at an estimated cost of \$184,000;
  - Prepare for a new landfill (Phase III) at a cost of \$175,000;
  - Consider carting off construction demolition debris, if financially feasible, to increase the useful life of the present landfill and to make closing the landfill less urgent;
- Urge the creation of an independent Waldoboro Recycling Committee
- Recommend to the Waldoboro Select Board the purchase of scales, a needed and critical addition to the transfer station.
- Implement better management of the Transfer Station. Better management is paramount. All of the foregoing goals are actually sub-topics of the issue of better management.

#### 4. **General Discussion about Goals -**

The following is a summary of comments and suggestions made during the discussion of goals:

Will Payson: Better management of the Facility is essential and will do much to ensure enforcement of the ordinance and more efficient operation of the Transfer Station.

John Daigle: We're running a facility that serves 8,000 people with two employees. The Town Manager and the Select Board determine levels of staffing, which are not sufficient to ensure adequate levels of recycling and adherence to the existing ordinance.

Monika: With the new committee, maybe we now have an opportunity to clarify the problems around enforcement.

Terry: The committee might consider recommending the hiring one or more folks who are retired. Two retired people could work 20-hour shifts to get better coverage, to reduce overheads, and to ensure more experienced management.

John Higgins: Would hiring one more full-time person allow us better to enforce the existing ordinance? John D: Yes, it would eliminate

SOME problems. Likewise we need to take the politics out of managing the Transfer Station. Complainers go to the Town Manager or Select Board. Neither tends to back-up Transfer Station personnel. When situations do arise (abusive or impolite behavior, violations of the ordinance), it always seems to be the fault of Transfer Station Personnel, never that of the “customer”. Moreover, with only two employees on duty and the DEP’s requirement to have one person supervising the landfill, there’s always going to be inadequate coverage of the area out front.

Randy: We have to change the culture of the transfer station.

Bruce Prior: People argue that they’ve paid their taxes and therefore their transfer station fees. The argument follows that no one should be able to keep them from using the Transfer Station, whether or not they are in compliance with the ordinance.

Ted: If we processed our waste more efficiently, would we save money? We need to take a look at asphalt re-cycling.

Monika: How do we get politics out of the management control of the transfer station?

Will: There’s the analogy of the Harbormaster’s position: All he does is check on moorings. The ordinance says, if you don’t do what the harbormaster says, it’s a class E crime. The Transfer Station needs to be managed the same way.

Randy: When should this committee go before the Waldoboro Select Board?

Ted: When we have a new ordinance

## **5. Meetings Schedule, Agenda for the next meeting and Adjournment**

The Committee has Conference Room availability on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of every month. By consensus, the Committee agreed to meet at 7:00 p.m. on those days. Again, by consensus, the Committee decided to focus on completing a draft ordinance that can be presented to the Waldoboro Select Board by the end of this month (August). Bob agreed to send out Draft #14 to all Committee members with the request that they read and edit critically. The Committee will hold its next meeting on Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

The Committee adjourned by consensus at 9:00 p.m.

Transfer Station Committee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town of Waldoboro, Maine Bob Butler, Chairman

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Ted Wooster, Vice Chairman

Absent: \_\_\_\_\_  
Liz Dinsmore, Friendship Select Board

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Terry Gifford, Waste Hauler, Waldoboro

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John Higgins, Waldoboro Citizen

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Monika Magee, Cushing Citizen

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Will Payson, Cushing Select Board

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Bruce Prior, Cushing Hauler

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Randy Robbins, Cushing Citizen

