

Town of Waldoboro, Maine
Transfer Station Committee Meeting Minutes
Municipal Building - 1600 Atlantic Highway
Thursday, May 10, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

1. Sign in and Call to Order

Bob Butler, Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum present. Other committee members present were:

Ted Wooster, Waldoboro Select Board
John Higgins, Waldoboro Citizen
Liz Dinsmore, Friendship Select Board
Will Payson, Cushing Select Board
Randolph W. Robbins, Cushing Citizen
Terry Gifford, Waldoboro Hauler
Monika Magee, Cushing Resident

Also present were John Daigle, Waldoboro DPW, and John Spear, Waldoboro Town Manager. Bruce Prior, Cushing waste hauler, was absent.

2. Citizen Comments (For items not on the agenda)

Bob Butler emphasized that the two articles on the Waldoboro warrant concerning the Solid Waste Disposal and Required Recycling Ordinance and the Municipal Services Agreement had absolutely no relationship to considerations of new disposal methods, including Pay per Bag. He was concerned that newspaper coverage of the candidates' night held in Waldoboro created the impression that the two articles are somehow related to a referendum concerning disposal methods. Nothing could be further from the truth.

3. Changes to the Agenda. There were no proposed changes to the agenda

4. Minutes of the April 26, 2012 Meeting.

John Higgins moved and Randy Robbins seconded that the Committee approve the minutes of the April 26th meeting. All committee members present voted in favor of the motion.

5. Discuss Disposal Methods, scales and related software, changes in traffic patterns at the Transfer Station and the life of the Landfill

John Daigle reported that the Phase II landfill has about ten years' life, not the much shorter life span that Pine Tree engineers had calculated. The Pine Tree re-evaluation indicates the landfill has sufficient space for another 11,000 cubic yards. The miscalculation came about because Pine Tree was subtracting from the land fill's capacity the 5,000 cubic yards needed to cover it for closing plus the 5,000 cubic yards required for the tilled pad. Based upon average usage annual usage rates of about 1100 cubic yards per year, there is about 10 years of additional capacity. (Actual annual usage fluctuates between 800 and 1500 cubic yards.)

Additional capacity has been obtained because plastic and Construction demolition wood no longer go into the landfill, only pressure-treated wood and contaminated CDD. 700 tons of CDD no longer goes into the landfill; it's recycled. If clean CDD is contaminated, it could be put into the landfill. John Higgins pointed out the importance of keeping CDD clean so that it does not have to be buried in the landfill.

CDD is "clean" if there is no more than 2% plastic; 1% pressure-treated wood, and some metal.

Terry Gifford said that if contractors knew the rules beforehand, they might cooperate. As it is, they put contaminated materials at the bottom of their loads to avoid charges for contaminated materials. Terry suggested that the fee scale for CDD requires higher charges for contaminated waste to incentivize the dumping of clean CDD.

John Daigle pointed out that when cement pads are constructed to accept daily tranches of CDD, contamination would decline because it would be easier to examine the contents of loads dumped onto the pads.

Terry wonders what the Transfer Station's true recycling rate is. John Higgins said that if the Transfer Station has been taking in over 5,000 tons of material and recycling 2,000 tons, the rate must be close to 40%.

Terry suggested the transfer station stage a separate trailer for mattresses and couches, which would keep them dry. John Daigle pointed out the PERC cannot take mattresses.

John Daigle reported that Pine Tree has quoted \$7,650 to complete a study of the Transfer Station traffic patterns, improvements (including pads) and installation of a scale. He (John) thought they would charge closer to \$10,000.

John Daigle reported further that DEP has permitted Waldoboro for additional capacity for the Phase III landfill, provided certain interim steps are followed, including the requirement to close the Phase II landfill prior to opening the Phase III landfill.

The Committee had a lengthy discussion concerning the acceptability of the Pine Tree offer to complete the study for \$7,650.00. Ted Wooster pointed out that Pine Tree has the expertise and experience and would take less time to complete the study. John Higgins thought Waldoboro should obtain a second opinion, saying we've been in bed with Pine Tree too long. Ted responded that some companies have a lot of corporate overhead; others do not. Will Payson pointed out that John Daigle's positive experience with Pine Tree is worth a lot. John Daigle said Pine Tree's price is low and that it could take as long as three months to solicit the interest of an alternative. Part of Pine Tree's scope will be to price the cost of the cement required to build the pads; Pine Tree has the information readily available to estimate such costs precisely because it's been involved with the Waldoboro Landfill for so many years. John Daigle confirmed that Pine Tree would be required to help to prepare the bid package, which could then be put out for bid. John Spear pointed out that we could operate in a mode that is less formal with Pine Tree, saving time and ensuring greater efficiency.

Randy Robbins moved that the Committee recommend acceptance of Pine Tree's proposal in the amount of \$7,650. Will Payson seconded the motion. The motion carried with five votes in favor and three votes against.

Will Payson pointed to the importance of scales to help to create a dependable database. He said that software is the key to keeping track of how much waste people and waste haulers bring to the Transfer Station. An efficient traffic pattern will be critical.

John Daigle expressed his agreement but said the Transfer Station is not up to that step quite yet. He's looking for scales that can handle the weight of a bicycle to the weight of a tractor-trailer. Liz thought the scales were intended for trucks and trash haulers, not for individuals. She wasn't aware the scales could be used for someone bringing a couple of bags of garbage. John Daigle responded that he wants scales for large trucks. However, if the Transfer Station Committee ever decides to charge by weight, the station will need scales sensitive enough to handle small amounts of garbage. John Daigle wants to ensure maximum flexibility.

Monika Magee cited the example of the Town of China, of which she learned at the MRRA Conference. The Town of China found that the fairest way to charge for solid waste disposal is to charge by weight. No one can argue with a scale. She said China came up with a system with wooden nickels with a nominal value of \$0.20. The China Transfer Station hands them out as rewards for recycling. The wooden "currency" can be used to pay for the disposal of bulky waste.

John Higgins moved that the committee take Pay Per Bag off the table. There was no second to the motion, and the committee did not vote on the matter.

6. Set Agenda for the May 24th meeting.

The committee agreed to meet again on June 14th, after Waldoboro's Referendum Town Meeting.

Monika Magee requested that she be on the agenda to discuss what she had learned at the MRRA Conference.

7. Adjournment.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn

Respectfully Submitted: Bob Butler

Approved:

Transfer Station Committee
Town of Waldoboro, Maine:

Bob Butler, Chairman

Ted Wooster, Vice Chairman

Liz Dinsmore, Friendship Select Board and Secretary

Terry Gifford, Waste Hauler, Waldoboro

John Higgins, Waldoboro Citizen

Monika Magee, Cushing Citizen

Will Payson, Cushing Select Board

(Absent) Bruce Prior, Cushing Hauler

Randy Robbins, Cushing Citizen