

Town of Waldoboro, Maine
Transfer Station Committee Meeting Minutes
Municipal Building - 1600 Atlantic Highway
Thursday, June 11, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- A. Sign in and Call to Order: Bob Butler called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2015.
- 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 Waldoboro Transfer Station Committee members were present and constituted a quorum:

Robert Butler, Waldoboro Resident
Elizabeth Dinsmore, Friendship Select Board
David Benner, Alternate for Friendship Resident
Monika Magee, Cushing Resident and Alternate
Randolph Robbins, Cushing Resident
John Higgins, Waldoboro Resident sitting in for Terry Gifford, Waste Hauler
Ted Wooster, Waldoboro Selectman

- C. Minutes of the May 21, 2015 Meeting: Bob Butler informed the committee that he had completed the minutes just prior to the meeting. The committee agreed by consensus to review the minutes during its July meeting.
- D. Discussion of Terry Gifford's question whether the Transfer Station Committee may make recommendations only to the Waldoboro Select Board.

Terry explained her view that the committee is an extension of the Waldoboro Select Board, which had appointed it. We're not an extension of the Town Office. She also referred to Section 2.4, many elements of which have the committee making recommendations on many matters to the Select Board. She said the committee should always go to the Board of Selectmen with any and all actions.

Butler said that there's nothing in the ordinance as far as he knows, that says the Transfer Station Committee can make recommendations *only* to the Select Board. He said that there is a number of sections that say the committee shall make recommendations to the Select Board but a blanket statement saying that committee recommendations can only go to the Select Board is not present in the ordinance. Butler pointed out that the addendum to the waste hauler application was an administrative matter. It related to a document (the Hauler's Application Form), which the committee had originated and forwarded to the town office. The hauler's application had never been, and should not become, a matter for Board consideration. Moreover, completion of the addendum was not mandatory.

Seth Hall, based upon his experience with the Planning Board, explained that, in general, committees' actions are driven by the obligations the applicable ordinance places upon them. The committee's exist and operate independently of the Board.

Miller said that he does not disagree with Terry and or agree with Terry. The addendum is not a change to the ordinance or to the attachments; it's not a requirement. It does say in various places in the ordinance that the committee should "recommend to the Board". However, the addendum the transfer station committee forwarded to the town office does not represent a

change to the ordinance and is not mandatory on the haulers. Miller added that if there's a question in anyone's mind about this he would send it to the board and get it approved.

Butler asked if anyone wanted to make a motion or take any further action. By consensus the committee dropped the matter.

E. Discussion of Pilot Composting Program with Lincoln County Recycling

Butler explained that he'd included this item on the agenda because he was not at the meeting on May 28th and he didn't know if the committee wanted to discuss the composting program pilot with Lincoln County Recycling (LCR).

Ted Wooster emphasized the need to pay attention to compostable items that cannot be deposited at the transfer station, especially bones, meat, and dairy products. Daigle confirmed that the compost pile at LCR is not big enough to handle disallowed compostable items, such as meat, bones, and dairy.

Butler pointed out that Higgins had asked the question about items that are not permitted. Daigle said such items could be deposited with LCR if the LCR composting pile were big enough. It's just not quite big enough, yet.

John Daigle confirmed the order of 300 2-gallon buckets at a price of \$3.48, each. These are not easy peel buckets. The tops are vented. Butler paid \$8.00 for his; Daigle had picked up 300 of them at a far lower unit price from a representative in Northport.

Daigle confirmed that he wanted to involve the committee in most of the aspects of the transfer station. Butler confirmed that it's a good public forum. The committee's meetings inform the public.

Daigle is unsure of how to involve Cushing and Friendship in the composting program because they are so far away from the transfer station. Lincoln County is thus far refusing to place composting bins in either town and to pick them up. Also, Haulers would not be able to do it because they would need a sanitation area on the trucks. Daigle said that if we had enough buckets, we could swap them out. Miller confirmed that he had heard that maybe down the road LCR could pick up compost from Cushing and Friendship.

Butler asked how many people in Cushing and Friendship come to the Transfer Station.

Daigle has not yet gathered that information, which Martha Marchut had requested. Is it worth doing another survey? We did on as the ad hoc committee. Should we resurrect the survey and ask if they use a hauler or drive to the transfer station.

Gifford thought we might count the number of permits the TS had issued in each town to get a rough estimate. That could be a starting point.

Martha wondered if we could talk to the haulers about the numbers of their customers and whether they could think of ways to handle composting.

Ted Wooster thought we might have to re-evaluate our fees for use of the transfer station. Daigle said he was getting prices from different towns in the area and what it's costing them.

Ron Miller suggested that the people from Friendship and Cushing could bet together with a hauler who might pick up compostable materials once a month. A trailer could be sanitized. Would someone pay \$5 a month for a hauler to pick up compostable materials? It would have to be worth a hauler's time.

Butler asked if there's a canister LCR could allocate to each of the towns or to a hauler in each of those towns? Given the savings we'd experience, Daigle thought he could buy a canister and bring it down to Cushing and Friendship, giving it a central location.

Daigle said he'd been discussing a satellite area for Friendship and Cushing. Gifford thought it would have to be manned. Daigle said it would be opened for a few hours during a day. It would be for individuals, not for haulers, who would not have to mess with it.

Randy Robbins thought it could create a problem for the haulers, especially if it would affect their 30% recycling requirement. He doesn't think there's a hauler who would want to give up recyclables.

Daigle said it depends. If we go PAYT, the 30% recycling requirement would go away. Daigle said there's a lot to look at.

Higgins commented that under the MSA agreement, all towns have to agree to the pilot. He said, "We're going to be using a different type of disposable, which is foodstuffs." Higgins said the pilot should have a public hearing. He added that Waldoboro is the only town doing the composting in a three-town compact.

Butler said the committee, which has representatives from all three towns, *had* voted *unanimously* in favor of the composting pilot program. All three towns had already agreed to it by virtue of their memberships on the Waldoboro Transfer Station Committee. Miller agreed with Butler that collecting compostable materials through LCR does not have to go to the Waldoboro Select Board.

Higgins disagreed, saying that if we change our method of recycling, we have to go to the voters. *Composting at the transfer station, he said, changes the way we do things at the transfer station and should require a vote of the towns.*

Randy Robbins quoted from Section 2.7.4 of the Ordinance, which says composting at the transfer station requires the recommendation of the Transfer Station Committee and the agreement of the Waldoboro Select Board. In other words, composting *at the transfer station does require* a town vote.

Daigle pointed out that section 2.7.4 refers to the town running its *own* composting program, which would entail an \$18,000 to \$20,000 budget, DEP approval of the *program, constant* testing of the compost produced under the program and training of employees. Under the pilot with LCR the transfer station is *not* operating a composting program. *LCR is operating it.* LCR is paying for all the clearances required from DEP and for all the testing. Under the pilot program, there's no composting going on at the Waldoboro Transfer Station at all, only the collection of compostable materials, which LCR picks up and takes away. Under the LCR pilot program, the transfer station does not have to do anything other than accommodate sealed bins, which act as a temporary storage for the materials which LCR intends to compost.

Martha Marchut asked how this fits with MRC's post 2018 plans. Does it have a bearing?

Butler thought it does have a bearing. He clarified that we'll need to know by the end of this year how much MSW we'll be committing to transport to the new Fiberight facility in Hampden in 2018. If we've not done anything to reduce the three communities' MSW between now and then, we'll likely be committing larger amounts to Fiberight than might otherwise be necessary. "Doing nothing between now and 2018 is not an option," Butler said. The potential impact of PAYT and composting on the reduction of MSW tonnages shipped out of the transfer station could be significant. It would be far more favorable to be in a position to commit to 1500 tons of MSW per annum instead of 3,000 tons. Ted emphasized that we need to pay careful attention to the quantity of materials Fiberight will need to operate successfully.

He thought they might require materials trucked in from out of state. Butler thought there is no limit to the number of communities the MRC can draw into the Fiberight arrangement however, he agreed that MRC had emphasized that Fiberight will not be processing MSW from outside of Maine.

F. Discussion concerning the Ranking of the Remaining Priorities and further actions.

Butler asked if the committee would like to rank those items that had not been prioritized. Miller thought that some of the priorities could be combined, including those that had lower scores.

Terry said there were several people that had different priorities. She asked if people had a specific interest in something they could do the research on it and bring it back to the committee for a full discussion. She doesn't mean to de-emphasize the importance of any of the priorities. She thought sub-committees would get everybody involved.

Martha thought that for the top priorities the whole committee should be involved.

During the discussion the committee decided by consensus to group the six priorities as follows and to assign the following people to subcommittees to work on them:

1. Aggressively pursue the implementation of Pay As You Throw (7 votes): **Martha Marchut, Bob Butler, and John Higgins**

During the discussion of volunteers for this sub-committee, Ted Wooster thought we should wait until we are able to develop information from the scales about who is recycling and who is not.

Ron Miller suggested what Bob Butler is looking for is someone to serve on the subcommittees.

Seth Hall said Bob was looking for people who could start NOW working on these matters. He added that the Town Manager, at the last Select Board meeting and without prompting from the Transfer Station Committee had expressed a strong interest in PAYT. That's huge advocate with lots of resources. The Committee should mine that.

John Higgins said that we should hold off appointing members to sub-committees because the look of the Transfer Station Committee could "be entirely different".

Bob Butler said, "We have a job to do' it's not a political job. It's not related to the results of anything anywhere. We need to get on with our work. If we have a resource and it's the town manager, whoever that is, or if we have a resource at the MRC, or if we have a resource down at EcoMaine, or at Waste Zero, we ought to be tapping into that and getting ourselves ready. I'm not interested in the politics."

Higgins said Butler was not listening. Butler apologized. Higgins repeated his point. He said, "The look of the committee for next year for Waldoboro could look entirely different with the people picked. So if you pick people tonight to do this, they might not be the people on the committee to do these tasks. That's my only point. I'm not trying to stop this committee from doing its job."

Butler went back to his original statement. "If there are people interested, whether they're going to be on the committee or not, it's a public committee. People do not necessarily have to be on the committee to do the work of the committee. Sub-committees can be formed of all kinds of people. I think we ought to move forward, and damn the guns and just move forward and get this done." Butler added, "I may not be on this committee

come July 1st, but that does not mean I'm going to stop working.”

John Daigle agreed with Butler. “Back years ago,” he said, “this was brought up as PAYT. It was brought up; it's good information to provide, and if people want to vote on it, they should have a chance to do so.”

2. Integrate with the Municipal Review Committee's past-PERC vision and follow developments through to termination of the Charter Community's relationship with PERC on March 31, 2018. (5 votes): **Bob and John Meyn**
3. Improve Communications with Waste Haulers: **Randy Robbins and Martha Marchut**
4. Complete a Cost/Benefit Analysis of the new transfer station scale: **John Higgins and Terry Gifford**
5. Complete a Cost/Benefit Analysis of Lincoln County Recycling: **John Higgins and Terry Gifford**
6. Establish a clear understanding of the use of the scales for haulers and residents: **Randy Robbins, Ron Miller and John Daigle**

Daigle mentioned that PAYT *could* cause quite an impact on Cushing and Friendship taxes, not so much in Waldoboro. He continued, “The reason being that the tax base for the Transfer Station, they have summer residents who are paying taxes year around without having to use the service (of the Transfer Station). So, Friendship and Cushing reap the benefits from that. If we go to PAYT, it's just going to be the people that are throwing the trash away. So the residents that are not there year around, you're not going to be able to charge them that amount of money.” Daigle said, “It's just going to be the people who are throwing the trash away who will be contributing the transfer station revenues.”

Seth Hall said we should not assume PAYT would change the mil rate in any town. The money saved goes into the general revenues. It could be used in Waldoboro, for example, to pay for resurfacing roads that have been neglected. He said to tie PAYT directly to the mil rate in any of the three towns would be a mistake. But that's exactly the kind of thing the subcommittee should look into. “It should be looking at the experience of towns that are already doing this,” Seth said.

Daigle said, “If you went to PAYT, the way to sell it to people would be to say the taxes would drop. Without that, PAYT would never pass”. Daigle said he'd been there twice.

Daigle said the easiest way to get that message across would be to show a reduction in the transfer station budget. This would then filter down into a possible change in the mil rate for all three towns.

Seth Hall emphasized the need to save the money and let the town fathers (and mothers), who deal with the budget, take it from there. Miller said that if John were saying we wouldn't need as much money to operate the Transfer Station as a result of PAYT, he wouldn't budget as much money. Butler said he agreed with that.

Butler pointed out that a reduction in the Transfer Station budget still didn't deal with John Daigle's perception that Friendship and Cushing could have issues with their respective tax bases because they have so many summer residents who pay the taxes that currently support the transfer station budget. The committee agreed that the subcommittee should address the issue.

The committee discussed the possibility of paying for advertising for people to serve on

committee task forces or sub-committees. John Daigle thought the bigger the committee the less that gets done. There was no conclusive resolution of that topic. Butler suggested the committee let it percolate for future discussion. Monika Magee thought the committee was only looking for people from Waldoboro to participate. Butler emphasized that the committee is looking for people from all three of the town to become involved. If placed, ads could appear in the *Courier Gazette* and the *Lincoln County News*.

Butler asked about the sub-committees' end products. Gifford thought there should be a list of pros and cons to ensure a good research report. She didn't want people looking just for something good and just for something bad. Butler agreed. But his opinion was that each sub-committee should stick its neck out with a firm recommendation. John Higgins agreed with Terry. Using PAYT as an example, he said both sides should be presented, saying there are two people on the sub-committee who support PAYT and one person (Higgins) who does not believe in it. Gifford thought the reports should be in writing. Butler confirmed he wanted a written report with recommendations based on the facts, not a set of beliefs. Miller clarified that the sub-committees should bring recommendations to the Committee for discussion, adding that each sub-committee needs to come with a recommendation.

Martha Marchut, using PAYT as an example, said there could be distinctly different points of view. She said she wants to keep the discussions and controversies within the committee. She expressed her hope that we would avoid destructive, behind-the-scenes maneuvering, which could undermine the sub-committees. She encouraged those with secret agendas to come to the committee meetings to discuss matters openly.

Butler asked that the subcommittees set a schedule for the completion of their tasks. He added that each subcommittee should meet at least once prior to the July 9th meeting. Seth Hall asked for a preliminary report from each subcommittee at the July meeting.

- G. Adjourn: Ted/ Wooster moved for adjournment. Liz Dinsmore seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Liz Dinsmore (Friendship Select board)

Bob Butler, Chairman (Waldoboro Resident)

Terry Gifford (Waste Hauler)

Martha Marchut (Cushing Select Board)

Ted Wooster (Waldoboro Selectman)

Randolph Robbins (Cushing Resident)

List of Goals from
April 9th Transfer Station Committee Meeting

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 up-coming 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.