



TOWN OF BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Transfer Station Evaluation Committee Minutes Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Attendees included committee members Guy Wadsworth, Ron Olsen, Jim Solinas, Peter Lemay, Joan Cudworth, Jerry Farwell, and Tad Putney as well as Don Gagnon.

Tad opened the meeting at 6:30pm and members agreed to televise the meetings.

Elections

Following introductions, **Jim** was nominated as committee chair; voted Yes 7-0. **Peter** was nominated as vice-chair; voted Yes 7-0. **Tad** was nominated as secretary; voted Yes 7-0.

Committee Charter

Jim asked if there was any input on the charter. There was none at this time.

Souhegan Regional Landfill District (SRLD) Background

Jerry provided background on SRLD. He said it is comprised of four towns – Brookline, Hollis, Amherst and Mont Vernon. He shared the latest report from the district on trash and recyclable volumes through April of this year. He noted that trash volumes in some towns has actually decreased over the past years and suggested, in at least Brookline's case, it may be due to an increase in the use of home trash pick-up by companies like MD's. Jerry noted that 10+ years ago there was a push for the district to go to "single stream" recycling for promised revenue. He said we are fortunate that we did not pursue it as some towns, like Merrimack, did and it has not worked out well. **Jerry** clarified that the SRLD financial report he circulated does not include haul fees.

Compacting Recyclables

Jerry said that Amherst and Hollis have multiple compactors – perhaps as many as four each. He said that both Hollis and Amherst are now separating and compacting translucent milk jugs. He said that Hollis transports two containers of compacted milk jugs per year, which saves on trucking costs. Revenue is also higher when the milk jugs are separated. **Joan** said that about one month ago Hollis started a pilot program separating "office paper", which is white paper (including envelopes) from "mixed paper". The revenue for office paper has been \$1.80-\$2.70 a ton versus a charge (expense) to dispose of "mixed paper".

General Discussion

Joan said that the recycling market will continue to fluctuate. She encouraged the group to focus on what we can do to generate revenue as it fluctuates.

Jim reviewed the background material he prepared and provided to members. He noted it included the town's agreement with SRLD as well as the district's contracts with D.C. Slocum for transportation and Wheelabrator for disposal of trash.

Jim raised questions about the capital costs spent by the district in member towns. He asked why there are four compactors in Amherst and Hollis, but only two in Brookline. **Joan** suggested we could walk through the SRLD budget at the next meeting. **Ron** said that he felt much of the SRLD discussion was over the head of most people listening to the meeting and we need to get additional information and pick it apart. **Jerry** suggested that the members identify questions for SRLD for the next meeting. **Tad** asked if there is someone at the district who could provide background/answers to the questions. **Jerry** and **Joan** suggested **Bruce Berry** and **Debra Quinlan**. It was agreed that members would prepare questions for the next meeting. **Peter** expressed the desire to better understand the basis of the \$164,000 the town pays to the district annually.

Tad said that in thinking about what the committee needs to do, he views the work as falling under two umbrellas. One involves the SRLD district. The second is items that the town can control entirely on its own. He said there are up to a dozen items the town can look at improving outside of SRLD.

Adding Compactors

Jerry said that we are due to receive two refurbished compactors and discussion ensued about what recyclables would be best to compact. Rough numbers were calculated regarding the benefits of compacting aluminum cans, mixed paper, translucent milk jugs and mixed plastics. There was also preliminary discussion about changing the order of the recycling bins as the compactors will be closest to the current mixed paper bin due to the needed proximity to electricity. **Jim** said that if we compact milk jugs, that it is a change for residents that compacting aluminum cans does not require. **Peter** said that if we decide to move away from compactors in the future, the additional compactors could handicap us from doing something different in the future. **Jerry** said that if we decide to move away from compactors in the future, we can. It was agreed that further refinement of the calculations was needed to determine which products would be best for compacting. **Jerry** agreed to prepare the analysis and circulate it in advance of the next meeting. **Jim** said we need to look at the total cost of implementing the compactors before doing so. **Joan** asked who would make the ultimate decision about adding compactors. **Tad** said the Selectboard. He suggested the committee review the cost/benefit figures at our next meeting and then the committee could make a recommendation to the Selectboard for their approval.

Baling

Jim said he thinks baling would be a better alternative than compacting. **Joan** said that she thinks baling is more labor intensive and you need a mouse-proof facility. **Jim** said it would not require more labor. **Jerry** suggested tonight's meeting was not the time to discuss baling.

Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting would be on Wednesday, May 30th at 6:30pm. Topics to cover would include: reviewing the cost/benefit figures for two additional compactors, discussing potential changes to the layout of the recycle bins, and developing a list of questions for SRLD.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Minutes submitted by Tad Putney.