



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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***Transfer Station Evaluation Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, May 30, 2018***

Attendees included committee members Guy Wadsworth, Ron Olsen, Jim Solinas, Peter Lemay, Joan Cudworth, Jerry Farwell, Kel Bachus, and Tad Putney as well as resident Jennifer Riendeau.

Jim opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 16, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

Review Questions for SRLD

Jim reviewed the questions **Tad** had drafted for SRLD and there were no additions or changes suggested. At **Jim's** request, **Joan** provided some background on NRRA. She said that it is a non-profit that works to find the best prices for recyclables. She said they are very helpful to towns in disposing of more difficult items like batteries, light bulbs and propane tanks. She said they don't always have the best price, but are a great resource. **Jim** noted that NRRA publishes monthly rates. Next we reviewed questions for SRLD that **Peter** had drafted. **Jerry** clarified that when new structures are added at the transfer station, the town pays 100% of the costs for labor, but the district pays for materials. **Jerry** noted that the compactors are lasting 30+ years, so buying makes more sense to him than leasing.

Compactor Analysis

Tad provided an overview of the compactor analysis he and **Jerry** prepared. **Peter** said that it was clear from the numbers that compacting mixed plastics makes sense to reduce hauling costs. **Tad** asked **Joan** if she believes there will be a long-term market for separated, translucent plastic. She said yes given its universal use. **Tad moved, seconded by Peter, to recommend that two additional compactors be installed with one for mixed plastics and one for translucent plastics; Voted Yes 8-0.**

Jim and **Peter** said that we need to be aware of contaminated plastics, for removal, before the items are compacted. **Joan** said that she looks inside her mixed paper bin before compacting it to remove any items that should not be there. There was agreement that additional thought is needed as to how the trays for the new compactors will be configured. It may be useful to have some temporary tables for residents to use to sort their plastics.

Layout of Recycle Bins

Members reviewed an aerial photo of the transfer station and the current layout of the recycle bins. It was agreed that it would be best to have the two new compactors located next to the current mixed paper compactor. It limits the expense of running electricity to the new compactors. Additionally, it was agreed that it would be optimal to move the glass and newspaper recycle bins to where the mixed plastic bins are currently. This will allow residents to dispose of these heavier items without having to climb stairs. There was discussion about the desired minimum spacing between the bins and it was agreed that **Jerry** and **Jim** will meet on-site to layout the location and spacing of the recycle bins. There was also some discussion of replacing the steps for the tin and aluminum can bins with a structure that runs the length of the two bins and that could be accessed from two directions rather than the single direction provided by the current stairs. **Jerry** noted that we need to be mindful of the trucks pulling and releasing the recycle bins – and the possibility of them doing damage to such structures. This is one reason that favors the smaller, movable stairs. **Joan** said we also need to be mindful of snow removal during the winter. **Kel** suggested we put together communication on the top three things residents need to know about the upcoming changes with the compactors and recycle bins.

Electronics

Joan said that Hollis sends out its electronics about every three months at a cost of about \$1,500 per trip, which include TVs and monitors only. They have one large metal box and gaylord boxes in them that are on pallets. She said they keep the larger TVs outside on pallets and stack four or five on a pallet and then shrink-wrap them. She suggested contacting NRRA and getting options from them for disposal of electronics. They will provide good prices and also certified disposal. **Joan** said that URT assist Hollis. Our lack of a fork lift could be addressed by a vendor coming with a lift gate and a hand lift with pressure jack to move the pallets. **Joan** said that all keyboards and mice go in the trash as they are plastic. **Tad** said he would reach out to NRRA for information on electronics collection and report back at the next meeting.

Tires

Jim asked **Joan** about Hollis's approach to tires. **Joan** said that they put the permitted 15 regular size, non-rimmed tires in each trash compactor load, but spreading them out. They use NRRA to get rid of their larger tires. She said Hollis charges \$3 for each rimless tire. **Jerry** said we are getting to the point we need to get rid of our truck and rimmed tires.

Metal Pile

Joan noted that she and one other employee work at the Hollis transfer station on the weekdays they are open and then she has a third, part-time, employee on Saturdays. It was noted that Hollis does not have construction debris collection at its transfer station like we do. She said she and the other employees pick out good metal from the metal pile and put it aside during their walks around the facility. The precious metals are stored in a locked shed. She said that if there is lots of metal (e.g., six full gaylords on pallets), she will have Slocum haul it to Schnitzer in Manchester. If the supply is just

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one or two gaylords, then she will take it there in a town truck. For Brookline to take metal to Schnitzer, the town would need to set up an account with them and would see even better prices than the recent amounts received in Townsend. **Jim** said the two trips with metal to Townsend yielded \$614. He estimated it took about 4 hours for transportation and about 10 hours of volunteer time separating the metals. At about \$15 an hour, for the invested time, the effort netted about \$400. All agreed that the effort was worth the return. **Peter** said that he would check on potential deals for metal disposal. **Joan** suggested NH the Beautiful should be pursued for low cost bins to help in the metal effort. A two-page application was provided to **Tad**.

Next Meeting

It was agreed the next meeting would be on Wednesday, June 13th at 6:30pm. Topics to cover will include:

- Responses to SRLD questions (**Jerry**)
- Layout of recycling bins, including spacing (**Jerry** and **Jim**)
- NRRA for options on electronics and tire disposal (**Tad**)
- Research on sorting trays for recyclables (**Kel**)

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Minutes submitted by Tad Putney.