



TOWN OF BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

P.O. BOX 360 – 1 Main Street
BROOKLINE, NH 03033-0360

Telephone (603) 673-8855, ext. 213

Fax (603) 673-8136

<http://www.brookline.nh.us>

Transfer Station Evaluation Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, September 5th, 2018

Attendees included committee members Jim Solinas, Peter Lemay, Guy Wadsworth, Ron Olsen, Jerry Farwell, Mike Wenrich and Tad Putney.

Jim opened the meeting at 6:30pm. **Guy** agreed to be the timekeeper for the meeting.

Minutes

Peter moved, seconded by Ron, to approve the August 15, 2018 minutes as written; voted Yes 7-0.

Public Input

There was no public input. **Peter** suggested that future agendas include “follow-up on action items”. **Jim** agreed to do so.

Guest Speaker – Ray Dube

Jim introduced **Ray Dube**, Sustainability Manager with Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Northern New England. **Ray** said that he focuses on recycling and, where available, keeping the products right here in New England as it provides jobs. He noted that they recycle plastic bottles, glass, cardboard, and shrink wrap. He said the Londonderry plant generates zero waste. They view waste as an expense and recycling as revenue. He said he and a colleague now spend 200 days a year teaching at schools and corporations about recycling. He said some of the recent challenges in recycling came when China stopped taking mixed paper and now some paper plants in the US are being refit to process the mixed paper domestically, but it may take 18 months before they are operating. **Ray** said there are significant markets for #1 and #2 plastics. He noted a business in New Jersey uses colored #2 plastics, grinds it up and uses it to make “Struxture” which has been used to build short-span bridges, which are strong enough to hold trains, at the same cost of steel bridges, yet with no maintenance costs. He strongly encouraged residents to take all plastic bags they have to the local grocery store rather than our transfer station. Plastic bags (including cereal bags and any type of plastic bag that has been used for any purpose other than holding chemicals) left at grocery stores are converted into trex decking. He noted that #3, #6, and #7 plastic is the most difficult to recycle. **Ray** said baling is an option to consider for the future. **Jerry** said the SRLD is meeting tomorrow night and the topic of baling will be discussed.

Update on New Compactor

Jerry said that the needed electrical component is being shipped tomorrow, but he does not have an expected arrival date. **Jim** asked if it was okay to start loading the jugs that have been left into the compactor; **Jerry** replied yes.

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Metal Presentation

Peter walked the members through a presentation he prepared (see attached) regarding the separation and disposal of precious metals. He said that metal prices have declined recently, but he believes a process can be put in place in the future that allows for minimal touch points and meaningful metal revenue. He believes a focus on copper, brass, wire, and aluminum, as space permits, make the most sense. He also said that heavy iron/steel would be beneficial if it can be separated. **Peter** said that about 12 roll-off loads of metal are taken from the Transfer Station each year and he feels additional annual revenue of about \$3,500 is possible. **Tad** said that he continues to believe the long-term solution is having a roll-off near the metal pile that contains gaylords for easy sorting and securing of the precious metals, which is then picked up and driven to the preferred vendor. In the interim, **Tad moved, seconded by Mike, to have Mike and Peter worked together by the next meeting to dispose of another round of precious metals; voted Yes 7-0.**

Mandatory Recycling Survey

Jim asked members for their views on the comments that had been written by residents regarding the idea of mandatory recycling. **Guy** said he believes residents see the merit of recycling, but do not want to make in mandatory. Following additional discussion, members agreed they were not in support of mandatory recycling and education/encouragement of residents is best.

Electronics Day

Jim said the next Electronics Day will be **Saturday, October 6th.**

Construction Debris Cover

Tad said that the significant costs of engineering and construction for covers over the construction debris bins in order to keep rain and snow weight out of the loads has kept us from pursuing them. **Peter** asked that coverage of the bins be considered when a DPW building is considered as a way to reduce the weight in the bins.

Planet Aid Collection Bin

It was agreed that **Tad** will again ask the Selectboard to approve the placement of a Planet Aid collection bin given the current bins are not sufficient for week-to-week collections and some items are being left out in the elements as a result.

Fee Comparison

Peter shared transfer station fee schedule information he and Kel collected for eight other local towns. He said Brookline's is the most detailed fee schedule of the towns and that a number of them defer to the local attendants. He said that he and Kel recommend that we not change any of our fees, other than those recently changed for construction debris. **Peter** will circulate the information to members via email.

Next Meeting

The next committee meeting will be on **Wednesday, September 19th and begin at 6:00pm at the Transfer Station.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Minutes submitted by Tad Putney.