



Transfer Station Committee

Minutes of Meeting: Tuesday, August 14, 2018

Volunteer's Room, Town Hall

Attendees: Tim Kilhart, Libby Levison, Tom Philippou, Stu Sklar

Guests: Irene Congdon, Central Mass Municipal Assistance Coordinator
Marie Solbovaro, Joan Elysial

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 P.m.

A. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

B. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion: Update from MASS DEP and Mass Toss
- b. Tessa reported that Groton got glass crusher and will begin implementation.
- c. Irene stated that the RDP moneys are in process but had prioritized the glass crusher. She also mentioned that Strategic might have another opportunity for glass disposal. Tim reminded everyone that we're in a contract right now, and it's for 1 year, ending on 3/31/19. Tim also said that the compactor/equipment grant would be applied for prior to the October STM. Irene informed the group that DEP had hired a PR firm and has developed a recycling website. It lists over 400 items and specifies what can be recycled and what cannot. The site moves away from plastics (1-7), into types. The hope is to release the website before end of summer. Libby suggested that the BoH send one recycling fact a week to Press.
- d. Discussion: Committee membership. Since Ken moved out of town, he resigned his town appointments. Tom said that he would follow up with the Selectboard for a replacement. Stu will attend meetings and interface with the Board.

C. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion: Marie informed the committee that the Town is reticent to continue with bifurcated transfer station stickers and will likely discontinue the discounted stickers for seniors. It was estimated that the final single sticker cost would be a bit less than \$100, and Irene offered to rerun the numbers and provide an updated estimate to reflect this at the next meeting. Marie stated that there are currently 6 categories of residents for permit purchase, and according to her math it looks like all permits must be \$100 to break even. Irene reminded everyone her model includes staff costs, fixed costs such as

electricity, etc... and included 'comingled' and glass processing. (Also included are the senior free bags.) Marie asked "where does the 30% reduction come from?" And, Irene replied "all recycling, but most glass is already out... when we go to SMART, we'll see 30-50% reduction in waste." She also stated that Thailand was taking some of the cardboard, as well as Turkey and that the US is reopening mills. To answer Marie's question, Irene stated that the disposition of materials being brought to the Transfer Station are roughly; 1/3 basic recyclables; 1/3 reuse and composting; and 1/3 waste that needs to be burned for energy. The SMART program causes at least 1/3 to leave waste stream. Tim reported that the new system for food scraps was working well. We are unable to get weight reports on the amount of paper recycled, but Tessa is able to estimate the figure based on the number of hauls.

- b. Tom stated that there are a lot of things that are recyclable that people don't know are recyclable. Tim also said that there was an informal meeting concerning Transfer station permits, consisting of: Tim Bragan, Ron, Tim Killhart, Amy, Julie Doucet, and Marie Solbovaro...
- c. One of the questions raised was 'Why two prices?' Other concerns were that "June was a horrible month and it's crazy downstairs." Referring to the vending of Transfer Station stickers. Libby mentioned that she thought she had made a mistake, and should have included a second proposal for a sticker that was included in taxes. Tom thought it might be more likely to be accepted. Irene agreed that if included in taxes, it should make it easier on town hall staff too. Marie brought up the point that stickers can be ordered on line, but the staff still has to check things out. Tim said that residents can't get a sticker if they are behind in taxes. It was determined that we need to brainstorm how to streamline sticker sales especially in anticipation of vending the bags.
- d. Returning to eliminating the discounted stickers for seniors, Stu said that this was a political problem. And, referring to the option of including the sticker fee in the tax base, Tim said the people won't want to see an increase in taxes especially in light of the school override. Stu informed the group that he was told by Bragan that the Town was seriously looking at town-wide curbside trash pick through a contract with a commercial waste hauler, and that the committee would need to consider this in future meetings as well as what to do with the existing Transfer Station. Tim declared that "the Town administrator dropped this on me two weeks ago." Tom reminded the group "that we

knew there would be other variables, so we need to include this contingency now, going forward.

- e. Tom said that the STM is not too far away and that we will need a presentation for Town Meeting and Tim said he had a presentation to make also concerning the compactor, which must go through CPIC. He has the cost estimate at: \$24,748 (compactor), \$8,200 (electric install), \$3,480 (concrete pad), resulting in a total of \$36,428. The good news is that all the funds were already in place and that there would be no need to ask for more. He will give the proposal to Bragan today.
- f. Stu said that the tentative date for STM was October 22, and would inform the committee if it was changed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:08 Pm

Minutes submitted by Libby Levison & Tom Philippou