

Transfer Station Committee
December 4, 2019

Committee Chair: Joy Nowell

Town Administrator: Dennis Pavlicek

Volunteer Committee Members: Andrea Crowell, Darren Finneral, Rob Naughton, Sydney Bryk, Joan Burritt, Margo Steeves, David Blohm, Jack Fisher, Bruce Mackenzie, Betsy Courant, Bob Borowski, Katheryn Holmes, Jeff Estella, Bob Davis, Mickey Noyer, Jennifer Sweet, Liz Moulton.

In Attendance: Joy Nowell, Dennis Pavlicek, Darren Finneral, Joan Burritt, Margo Steeves, Betsy Courant, Katheryn Holmes.

Ms. Nowell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Brush & Chipping Contractor Update

Mr. Pavlicek stated that he checked with New London and located the contractor they use for brush and chipping services. The contractor (Chuck Rose) is located in Webster. He charged New London \$350 per hour or \$5,000 annually. Mr. Pavlicek noted that the proposed Newbury budget for this line item has been changed from \$12,000 annually to \$ 6,000 annually. He added this amount covers the contractor services for two visits per year to ensure the brush pile does not get backed up at the Transfer Station.

Current Status of Transfer Station

Ms. Nowell indicated that the brush-hogged area is being used for brush deposits. Mr. Pavlicek noted that an access lane to this area has been plowed so the brush will be piled up from back to front. He added that the current amount of brush will be burned. In spring 2020, a decision must be made regarding personnel hours and schedule for the supervision of brush deposits. Mr. Pavlicek indicated that the weekend may be the best time for this. He added that leaves are being placed in the area designated and are not presenting any problems at this time.

Ms. Burritt noted that most landscapers and laborers work during the week and will want to drop off brush weekdays. Ms. Nowell said they will have to work within the town's schedule for brush deposits or use the pass provided by the property owner. She added that a Wednesday afternoon drop-off may be available.

Additional discussion included how to best implement the new arrangements – namely, listing the requirements for brush deposit on the back of the dump sticker, and obtaining a Transfer Station pass for landscapers.

The compactor is currently out of service but is being repaired. Plans call for another box for metal collection to be installed in spring 2020.

Regarding old refrigerators: it was noted that Eversource will pick up an old refrigerator and pay the owner \$30. It was noted that if the Transfer Station does not have to accept old refrigerators, much-needed space will become available.

There was general discussion about landfills in NH. Ms. Burritt referred to a podcast recorded on November 13, 2019 on NH's NPR featuring Karen Ebel discussing the landfill issue.

Public Outreach

There was discussion about the importance of educating consumers about the long-term effect of the products they buy – namely, what happens to the product after it is consumed, used and discarded.

Ms. Courant suggested establishing a town-wide zero carbon footprint goal and offering community service credits to high schoolers as part of this effort.

Ms. Holmes suggested holding a workshop called "Trash Talk". She also suggested that biodegradable trash bags be offered for sale at the Transfer Station.

It was noted that personnel at the Transfer Station are talking to residents on site about these concerns.

Additional discussion centered on how to track the number of people who are turned away without a dump sticker and the need to get feedback from the Transfer Station personnel regarding the traffic patterns on site. Also discussed was the recycling oversight in neighboring towns and whether there is any profit in recyclables.

Swap Shop

Ms. Nowell raised the subject of the current Swap Shop that is located at the Transfer Station and noted that there have been suggestions to establish this offering elsewhere in town.

Mr. Pavlicek noted that town residents would have to volunteer to manage the enterprise if it is relocated to another place.

Ms. Holmes and Ms. Steeves noted that the current Swap shop also serves as a social gathering spot for town residents.

Discussion followed regarding suggestions for the Swap Shop including:

- The venue could be improved.
- There is an issue regarding non-Newbury residents dropping off items.
- The traffic pattern issue should be addressed first before addressing any changes to the Swap Shop.
- Possibly relocate the Swap Shop to one of the buildings in South Newbury.
- Establish the Swap Shop in a new location, make it a re-sale enterprise with specific hours, requirements, and marketing, etc.
- Have items available through the weekend and then dispose of whatever is not taken/sold/etc. on Monday to avoid too much inventory.

- Have a website that lists all the items available.
- Utilize social media to promote the enterprise.
- Establish a marketing effort to attract volunteers for one- to two-hour shifts for organizing the inventory.

Ms. Nowell summarized and prioritized as follows:

1. Getting the brush pile cleared out and a future plan for collection and chipping same is the #1 priority.
2. Examine and improve the traffic pattern at the Transfer Station is the #2 priority.
3. Explore the possible options for the Swap Shop moving forward is the #3 priority.

Nest Meeting

Mr. Pavlicek stated that a Newbury resident with a background in traffic patterns will attend the committee's next meeting to discuss that topic.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Nowell thanked committee members for their interest, time and participation.

There being no further items to discuss, Ms. Nowell adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Whittemore
Recording Secretary