

## **Transfer Station Committee**

**January 8, 2020**

Approved February 6, 2020

**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, Katheryn Holmes, Jeff Estella, Bob Davis, Mickey Noyer, Jennifer Sweet, Liz Moul.

**In Attendance:** Joy Nowell, Dennis Pavlicek, Darren Finneral, Joan Burritt, Margo Steeves, Jack Fisher, Betsy Courant, Jeff Estella.

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

Ms. Nowell thanked all in attendance and noted that the Transfer Station personnel have communicated to her their appreciation of the efforts of the committee.

There was discussion regarding the efficacy of the dump stickers and if they were working to deter out-of-towners from using the Newbury Transfer Station. Ms. Nowell stated that she has been told by the Transfer Station personnel that the new stickers have been efficient and useful in cutting down the number of non-resident users.

Ms. Nowell noted that Hazard Waste Collection Day is scheduled in August and will be held at the Newbury Highway Garage.

### **General Discussion Points**

Committee members raised general discussion points on the following items:

- Ways to have individual residents volunteer at the Transfer Station for a day to help them better understand the current challenges regarding traffic patterns, recycling areas, general layout, trash compactors, etc.
- Frequency of recyclable pickups at the Transfer Station.
- The diminished global market for recyclables.
- Concerns regarding the fact that the existing compactors fill up quickly - well before they are scheduled for pickup.
- Feasibility of adding another open container for trash.
- Changing/improving the existing traffic pattern.
- Developing a one-page document, titled "Trash Talk", containing information about the Transfer Station as changes and updates are implemented.
- Ongoing public outreach aimed at educating town residents on the larger issue of consumerism and the resulting impact on trash creation and disposal.

### **Specific Discussion Points**

Mr. Pavlicek introduced Rick Cooper, a Newbury resident and manager of Gatekeeper Lock & Safe LLC in Lebanon. Mr. Cooper has an extensive background in the area of recycling, trash

collection and disposal, and municipal transfer station issues. Mr. Cooper offered a range of suggestions for the committee to consider including:

- Obtaining a large copy of the plot plan of the Newbury Transfer Station to see the extent of usable land, placement of existing buildings/compactor/recycling bins/etc., traffic patterns, parking options, and entrance and egress options.
- Using the plot plan as the springboard for discussion and consideration of meeting the current and future demands placed upon the Transfer Station facilities.
- Investigating the possibility of the town removing a full container from the compactor and placing an empty bin in its place – as opposed to acquiring another open container for trash.
- Acquiring a used tractor for dedicated use by Transfer Station personnel for container removal.
- Acquiring a used trash truck so the town could transport its own trash (to Lebanon) and the Road agent could use the truck for snow collection in the winter and sand/gravel/etc. hauling in other seasons.
- Utilizing leaf piles to maximize compost development. Use public outreach to encourage residents to use the seasoned compost in gardens.

There was general discussion regarding a wide selection of ideas on how best to arrange and utilize the acreage at the Transfer Station. Mr. Cooper reiterated the importance of examining the plot plan before moving forward with any suggestions. Mr. Pavlicek noted that the Transfer Station parcel is 6.2 acres, but it includes some wetlands and an old landfill area.

### **Leaf Pile**

Committee members discussed the current arrangement with an abutter regarding disposing the leaves down a slope onto the abutter's property. Mr. Estella raised concerns about the arrangement, noting there is no legal document protecting the town regarding this arrangement. He added that, currently, there is no control over future cooperation from the abutter should the property change hands.

Mr. Cooper described how other municipalities have effectively used leaf collection to produce rich compost and what is needed to achieve that. There was discussion about best practices for creating seasoned compost using a bobcat to move the leaves and turn the compost pile. Further discussion centered on the feasibility of creating a concrete backstop for the compost, giving the backhoe something to push up against when turning the compost.

### **Brush Pile**

Mr. Estella asked about the ground surface after the final brush pile burn. Mr. Pavlicek said he anticipates that the area surface will be excavated down 18-inches and then gravel placed on top. He added that there are no plans to pave the area to create an impervious surface.

### **Traffic Pattern**

Mr. Pavlicek noted that the Selectboard has discussed the existing traffic patterns at the Transfer Station and agreed that it is best to have the recycling bins positioned first and the trash disposal area after that. This would cut down on folks putting recyclables into the trash area.

There was discussion about possible changes to the traffic patterns including creating three lanes, installing signs directing residents to specific areas, etc. Mr. Cooper, Mr. Pavlicek and Ms. Nowell agreed that the committee should first look at the plot plan before pursuing further ideas regarding changing the traffic patterns.

### **Trash Collection**

Committee members discussed further ideas about improving the current issues surrounding the increased creation of trash. Discussion items included increasing the frequency of pickups, have the town assume some of the trash hauling, purchasing another open container, and rearranging the containers on the site to maximize efficiency.

Mr. Pavlicek noted that making these kinds of modifications would change the budget for the Transfer Station. He added that the 2020 budget is in place, but modifications may be considered for the 2021 budget.

There was discussion about implementing a per-bag charge to residents for trash.

### **Data Generation**

Mr. Estella suggested that data should be collected and presented for committee consideration on the following topics (including annual amount generated and revenue realized):

- Baled cardboard.
- Recycled trash.
- Aluminum cans.

### **Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the plot plan and to-scale cutouts of the existing buildings be available for the next meeting. Mr. Pavlicek noted that he will ensure that two Transfer Station personnel attend the meeting for their input, perspectives and suggestions. Mr. Cooper suggested that the committee consider making site visits to other neighboring transfer stations over the next six months.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town office meeting room.

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Nowell adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Whittemore  
Recording Secretary