

**Draft minutes Transfer Station Improvement Committee
September 25, 2023 Cook Memorial Library 6:00 pm**

Call to Order: 6:04 pm

Present: Willie Farnum, Maud Anderson, Ian Haskell, Gabrielle Watson, Steve Schaffer, Kelly Goodson, Sue Stowbridge (remote), Richard Doucette (remote), Ellen Farnum (Secretary)

Approval of minutes from June 19th Meeting

Moved: Ian H. Second: Steve S. **Vote:** unanimous

Discussion on status of Transfer Station Project:

TSIC members were notified that the town of Tamworth did not receive the EPA “SWIFR” Grant, or the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Catalyst Grant.

~EPA Grant:

The town and TSIC are requesting a review of the scoring process. (This was a very competitive nation-wide grant with 354 applicants and only 25 awards.)

~NBRC:

Willie has spoken with Steve Fortier about the scoring process used in the NBRC grant. The goals for the grant were for social and economic development, so the transfer station project was not a good fit. Mr. Fortier has recommended contacting the US Economic Development Association as well as the NH Municipal Association to look for additional funding.

~Earmark money from office of Representative Pappas: the town is still waiting to hear about receiving money. Willie contacted Victoria Laracy for information and will follow up with a new contact: Colin Pio

Willie:

~Contact Kathleen Heck from the NH Municipal Association, Ms. Heck may be able to suggest other places to apply for money.

~Contact Colin Pio, manager of constituent services for Rep. Pappas, to ask about status of earmark request.

Discussion on available funds and project scope:

There is currently \$1,291,675 remaining from the \$1,426,776 available through the the 3-year Town appropriation plus the USDA grant and Tamworth Foundation grants. The money spent so far covers the fee for Sanborn Head & Associates for their work, plus work on a septic system and money for the required Environmental Study.

- **Option 1:** Use money we have and expand the existing facility, bathrooms, wash space and a larger workspace. (Omit storage space and baler) Under this plan, it might be possible to add additional storage space and a baler later if more funding was found. Note: the large space near the highway is on soft ground near water and would not be suitable for an additional building. The overall building space is limited: so adding buildings later is not a guaranteed possibility.

- **Option 2.** Design a full facility and continue to look for additional funding (\$1M additional money would be needed). TSIC will NOT seek additional money from town. Equipment grants may be available but will only pay 20% of the cost.

TSIC members decided to spend this month looking for other solutions.

1. Consult with other construction experts to see if they believe the building project could be built for less money than estimated by Sanborn, Head & Associates.

Willie, Ian, Richard:

Approach Adam Robinson and ask for an estimate on the earth moving portion of the project. (other local construction companies for possible consults: Ambrose, Coleman, Burk, Elliot, Drew, GW Brooks)

2. Consult with Sanborn, Head & Associates. Twenty-five % of the design for the transfer station is finished; discuss their estimated cost as well as finishing the project with the current monetary limitations (take equipment out of the project).

Steve, Willie, Keats and Richard:

Meet with Sanborn Head & Associates.

3. Potential Funding and fund-raising events:

Members discussed potential grants, funding sources such as a 'Go Fund Me' page and fund-raising events.

Kelly, Maud and Ellen:

Discuss fundraising ideas with the Tamworth Recycling Project members.

Ellen and Maud:

~Contact NRRRA (Reagan Bissonnette) and ask about other grant money,

~Contact Representative Karen Ebel for possible funding ideas

Maud:

~Contact NH Charitable Foundation; this group can connect with individual philanthropists who may help fund a municipal project.

Gabrielle:

~ Review US Economic Development Association Grant guidelines.

Next Meeting: October 16th 6:00 pm at the Cook Memorial Library

Meeting Adjourned: 7:00 pm

Minutes: E. Farnum