

Transfer Station Improvement Committee (TSIC) Agenda
August 30, 2021 6:00 pm
Cook Memorial Library.

6:04 Call to order

Present: Willie Farnum, Gabrielle Watson, Kelly Goodson (remote), Jim Diamond, Ian Haskell
Ellen F. (Secretary)

Approval of August 16th minutes

Moved to approve: Gabrielle W, seconded: Ian H.

Vote: Unanimous vote to approve August 16th minutes

Election of a vice chair for TSIC:

Gabrielle W was nominated by Kelly G to serve as the TSIC vice chair. Ian H seconded the motion. Gabrielle accepted nomination.

Vote: Gabrielle W. was unanimously elected to serve the TSIC as vice chair.

Discussion about mandate and rules for RSA 91A:

~Gabrielle W was able to set up a Google Drive account for the TSIC. Minutes, agendas and documents of past work done by the Tamworth SelectBoard and the Tamworth Recycling Project are now posted in Google Drive.

~Willie asked that committee members look at documents, and contact him for clarification if needed.

Rules for RSA 91A were reviewed:

~ Members of TSIC can peruse Google Drive documents, but the information cannot be discussed by email, phone or written comments until the TSIC group is formally meeting.

~The members agreed to send relevant documents to the secretary, who will then upload the documents/information into google drive.

~ Willie F. reminded the group that all meetings are open to the public, and TSIC documents are available upon request. Private discussions of more than 2 members of the committee are not allowed under RSA 91A rules.

Discussion on the time line:

Willie F. noted that the compactor at the transfer station failed and needed repair. He has added a new compactor into the timeline. (The timeline can be viewed in the Google drive.)

The group noted that money would be saved if the project could be completed quickly.

~Bruce Knox will be presenting the plans to the Tamworth BOS this Thursday, September 2, at 6:00 pm. (Bruce Knox was unable to attend the previously scheduled meeting).

Grant writing:

~Jim D. will consult with Gabrielle W and continue to work on finding grants for building and equipment cost. A list of potential grant sources is posted in Google documents.

~Suggestion to contact both Paige Wilson at Lakes Region Planning (LRPC) and Bonnie Bethune at Northeast Resource Recovery Agency (NRRA) for help identifying grants.

~ *Ellen F and Willie F. Will write an introduction to Paige Wilson LRPC and Bonnie at NRRA*

~*Jim and Gabrielle will set up a phone call with Paige and NRRA representative.*

CIP and fund raising money for the Transfer Station Improvement project:

~The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) has asked Willie F to attend their next work session on Tuesday, August 31st and answer questions about the transfer station project.

~Gabrielle W. asked for clarification on how the CIP allocates funds.

Willie stated that town department heads are usually responsible for requesting a sum of money be placed in the CIP; then the CIP studies the request and makes a recommendation to the SelectBoard. The SelectBoard then decides how and when the budget items will be placed on the town warrant.

~Discussion on bond vs. grants:

It may be more cost effective to try to get consent from the public for a municipal bond (this will eliminate inflation cost). Jim points out that interest rates are currently very low.

Kelly G and Willie F. will work together to find out the current municipal bond rate and report back to the group on what annual payments would look like for the estimated project cost.

~Could TSIC get a municipal bond and then still apply for grants to cover equipment cost?

~ It will be important to have financial information clearly outlining the financial decisions made by the TSIC:

- A. Information should be gathered on the money saved through using balers and other equipment. (Recyclable products that are clean, stored properly and baled make more money)
- B. Information on shrinking landfills and projected cost increases, (important for the public to understand 'tipping' fees and hauling fees.)
- C. Information for financial savings come not only from the sale of recyclable products, but also from cost avoidance. (Ex. The cost of cardboard disposal is projected to increase; but hauling cardboard and paying for disposal in the MSW is also expensive.) NRRA and LRPC have lots of good information to share.
- D. Information on Tamworth's current recycling rate: Willie has posted his own estimate on how much he believes the town recycles (Google Documents). NRRA also has information on the average amount most towns recycle.
- E. It will be important to explore regionalization. Jim D suggested contacting other towns to assess interest: *Willie will draft a letter to the towns of Sandwich, Madison, Freedom and bring it to the next meeting.* If Tamworth did offer to provide recycling services to other towns, we would probably need approval from the Department of Environmental Services (DES)

Develop alternative plans:**Single Stream:**

TSIC will need to explore all options and be ready to present information to the town. Single stream is one form of waste disposal. (Single stream is currently used by both Moultonborough and Sandwich.) Willie F has had contact with both towns, and said that hauling fees are significantly higher for these two towns. He believes that Sandwich and Moultonborough also need at least two compactors: one for MSW, and one for the recyclables. It may be that these towns see a cost savings in other ways; perhaps fewer employees? Less storage space needed? *Ian H and Willie F will gather more information on comparing single stream with multi stream recycling.*

Pay As You Throw:

Discussion on Pay As You Throw programs: Kelly G. points out that this program would encourage people to recycle more in order to avoid the disposal fees. Under this program, Tamworth would still need to upgrade the facility.

Gabrielle W expressed concerns about income equity: Pay As You Throw would be a burden to some families.

Offer Composting?

Many communities are now offering free composting bins and requiring the public to compost. However, at this time, rural areas do not have companies that would pick up material.

Incentives:

Harold Cook suggested offering monetary incentives for recycling glass.

Discussion on record keeping challenges

Mandatory recycling

If Tamworth adopted mandatory recycling, it would need to be adopted through a public vote. Discussion of how monitoring trash could be accomplished if mandatory recycling was established.

A la carte alternatives:

Should Tamworth just recycle the high value products?

Willie F. will work on a breakdown of costs associated with current commodities being recycled.

Clarify TSIC's objective:

1. To build a facility that will reduce the cost of disposing of our waste.
2. Be able to bale recyclable products for sale, to keep them out of landfills, and return revenue to the town.

Suggested modified objective in italics below:

1. *To build/upgrade the Tamworth Transfer Station Facility so that it has the capacity to store and bale recyclable products; thus reducing material in landfills, and minimizing costs to town.*
2. *To build a facility that will provide a safe working environment to employees and to the public using the facility.*

Discussion on best wording:

Gabrielle W will work on rewording this statement, and will present it at the next meeting.

Other Business:

Harold Cook expressed concerns about not being able to attend meetings due to work commitments. After discussion with Willie F, he agreed to remain on the committee and review documents and minutes.

Goals/responsibilities for next meeting:

Gabrielle and Jim: contact LRPC and NRRA and schedule a meeting; Continue to explore grant options

Gabrielle: draft/clarification of TSIC objective

Willie and Kelly: research the current municipal bond rate

Willie: Draft letter to surrounding towns to discuss regionalization options

Willie and Ellen: introductory letter to LRPC and NRRA for Gabrielle and Jim

Willie and Ian: information comparing single stream with multi stream recycling

Willie will work on an information sheet that shows the current prices for Tamworth's recyclable commodities

Ellen: Zoom meeting option for next month

Next Meeting: Monday, September 20th 6:00 pm Library (*Ellen will make sure there is a Zoom option*)

8:00 pm Adjourn

E.Farnum minutes