

Minutes Transfer Station Improvement Committee December 7, 2021

Call to order: 6:06

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

Approval of minutes from November 15, 2021

Motion to approve: Kelly G. Second: Ian H

Vote: unanimous

Review Mission Statement:

Several edits were recommended: **(bold)**

~ To **assist** the town to build a facility that will provide a safe working environment to employees and to the public using the facility.

~ **To research and recommend options whereby Tamworth can optimize recycling, manage its waste responsibly, and save the town money.**

Members will review the statements, and the group will revisit at the next meeting in January.

Surrounding Towns:

Willie F. was able to meet with the Effingham SelectBoard. Board members (and public) were grateful to have an opportunity to discuss Transfer Station operation and compare/collaborate/share ideas for waste disposal. **They are not interested in collaborating on a regional project** at this time. Willie was also able to tour their facility.

~ Willie has now visited or spoken with all the towns in our area about regionalization. There is not support for a multi town recycling facility, but there is interest in getting transfer station staff together to collaborate.

Discussion:

Should TSIC or Tamworth Recycling Project (TRP) co-host a meeting with NorthEast Resource Recovery (NRRA) or Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC)?

The purpose:

1. To offer a forum for regional towns to share knowledge and discuss best practice with transfer stations and SelectBoard members, thus maximizing revenue for participating towns.
2. to bring new information about recycling to transfer station staff,
3. to discuss ways to increase recycling percentages
4. To share financial information

~Ellen F. will contact TRP, NRRA and LRPC and try to set up a meeting. Please submit ideas/topics to her directly.

Report to the SelectBoard

Gabrielle W. and Willie F. attended the Tamworth SelectBoard meeting on December 2 and presented an Interim Report (PowerPoint) outlining the work TSIC has done. *posted on town website*) All options TSIC has considered were presented. (Single Stream, Reducing services, Keeping the current system, Renovating/building a recycling facility, Regionalization). TSIC also updated the board on the grant writing progress.

SelectBoard Members agreed to support the grant submission. (Due December 17th) and gave TSIC authority to request a proposal for the Environmental Review required.

SelectBoard and members of the public had the following questions/concerns:

1. Concern that Tamworth would not be able to achieve 35% recycling rate as projected by TSIC.
2. Will recycling markets stay at the current levels?
3. Would voters support a large building project?
4. Concerns over increased costs of operating a large facility (maintaining equipment, staffing).

Discussion:

~Is it possible to recycle at 35%? If so, it would save the town about \$60,000 annually (if current pricing holds)

Maud will contact NRRA and attempt to gather still more information about recycling rates and prices in our area.

~Would the town support a project? Discussion on how to hone a message that will give voters information about increasing recycling options. Heartfelt testimony from trusted neighbors is often effective.

~ Business or public service?

Willie recommended presenting the recycling facility/transfer station upgrade as a public service to the town rather than as a money-making business. He pointed out that the public readily funds town services such as police, rescue, fire and road departments; these do not make money. Willie read a draft letter he has composed on this subject: he will send this to the SelectBoard under his name.

Grant Information

Willie and Gabrielle had a conference call last week from USDA representative Eric Law. He encouraged TSIC to get the basic grant application in, even if all the studies necessary are not complete. Law believes there is no better time to apply for this grant. This must be done by **December 17th**. So far, the narrative and short form are almost finished.

Still to do:

- ~ Finish Narrative and review short form (Maud will review drafts)
- ~ Environmental Review by the consulting engineer Bruce Knox (does not need to be completed, but there should be a contract in hand for the review). (Could current money in the Capital Reserve be used to cover this cost?) Richard D has offered to use his expertise in planning to help prepare the preliminary engineering report.
- ~ update the plan to reflect current costs associate with building a facility. (Completed by Engineer)
- ~Historical Preservation: Richard suggested contacting the NH State Historical data base. A Selectboard member can request a complimentary account. SelectBoard member Kelly G will do this.
 - ~ Set up appointment with USDA Loan Officer.
- ~ Obtain BOS signatures on grant (this will need to be done on December 16 at the latest.

Other Business:

- ~Willie brought up the possibly that Tamworth will be able to qualify for **more** grant money as household income in Tamworth is low.
- ~ TSIC must begin planning a Public information meeting for January. Willie has the beginning of a PowerPoint.
- ~Maud A. suggested presenting more info on state-wide waste managements (NH landfills are filling.) She will contact Representative Karen Ebel who worked on HB431.
- ~Ian H pointed out that state guidelines are another selling point.

TO DO:

Willie:

- ~Personal letter to BOS
 - ~contact Maud ref NRRA
- ~ Work on grant with GW and MA
- ~Follow up calls with Bruce Knox

Kelly:

Request a complimentary account for the state historic preservation (Richard will send contact info via Ellen or directly)

Maud:

- ~Contact NRRA and Karen Ebel
- ~Work on grant with WF and GW

Richard:

- ~Send historical preservation link to Ellen/and or Kelly
- ~Help with application for Environmental review

Ellen:

- ~contact TRP
- ~Historical link to Kelly

GROUP:

- ~review mission statement
- ~ Think of talking points for public informational meeting
- ~Topics ideas for a meeting hosted by TRP/LRPC/NRRA with selectboard and transfer station employees in the area

Adjourn 7:45

Next meeting January 4, 2022

Minutes EF