

Transfer Station Improvement Committee (TSIC) Minutes November 15, 2021

Call to order: 6:02

Present: Willie Farnum, Gabrielle Watson, Ian Haskins, Kelly Goodson, Richard Doucette (remote) Maud Anderson (6:30 pm)

Note: *Jim D attempted to meet via Zoom but was not able to join due to technical difficulties*

Approval of the minutes from 11/2/2021:

Willie F. Motion to approve, Kelly G. second

Vote: unanimous

Resignation of TSIC committee member: Harold Cook has let Willie know that he does not have the time to contribute to TSIC and has resigned.

Kelly nominated Maud Anderson to take Harold's place. Gabrielle seconded.

Vote: unanimous

Willie will formally request Maud's appointment to TSIC from the Tamworth SelectBoard.

Maud will ask Sue Stowbridge to be an alternate member of TSIC.

Review proposed changes to mission statement:

Group members discussed and revised TSIC's mission statement. The following changes were made:

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

~To explore and research options in which Tamworth can increase recycling, manage waste, and save the town money.

Committee members will continue to review these two statements and discuss again at the next meeting. (Please send changes or suggestions to Ellen).

Collaboration with other towns:

~Willie met with the Sandwich SelectBoard to discuss regionalization. Sandwich currently has a Single Stream program and have a long-term contract with Waste Management, so they cannot make any changes now. They are interested in talking further to see if collaboration would be possible.

~ Willie will meet with the SelectBoard in Effingham on November 30th. Effingham also has a single stream program. Willie noted that participation in the Effingham recycling program is high.

~ Further Discussion on transfer station operations:

Willie contacted Tara Mae Albert from the Department of Environmental Services (DES) and inquired about the rules/laws governing transfer stations. Under RSA149-M, municipalities must provide a place to dispose of waste. Other than that, the rules are somewhat ambiguous. For example, a town does not need to take brush.

The DES representative said that a transfer station Operating Plan could be adjusted to allow citizens or businesses in other towns to use Tamworth's recycling program.

Ms. Albert recommended filling out a True Accounting Form. This will help document the true costs associated with each component of our transfer station.

~Kelly updated the group on current cost increases at the transfer station. The Tamworth SelectBoard recently added a 5% handling charge for electronics, demo and refrigeration products.

Grant information:

Gabrielle discussed the requirements for USDA grants. There is a federal grant available for NH municipalities, and a national grant.

December 17th is the deadline for the NH USDA grant. This would be most valuable to TSIC, as there would be fewer competitors. Below are some of the requirements:

- ~ demonstrate support for the project
- ~ Public meeting
- ~ *environmental review with an outside contractor
- ~ *architect review,
- ~ *State historic review
- ~ written narrative
- ~ paperwork (extensive paperwork!)

Does not need to be completed: but must demonstrate that the review is in the process)* **Note: Richard D. may be able to help advise on the historic review.

Gabrielle said that it will be quite a stretch to meet the December deadline; however the group would like to move forward gathering data and getting SelectBoard approval now, even if the grant application deadline is not met.

~ Could TSIC recruit help to get this grant written?

~**There is a national USDA grant available in April.** This will be more competitive as municipalities throughout the US can apply but is a viable option if Tamworth cannot meet the state grant deadline.

~Further Discussion:

Town budgeting process and deadlines for placing money requests on the town warrant,

Multi-year funding vs single year funding,

Single Stream Recycling:

Ian has spoken with Paige Wilson LRPC. He reported that as of August 2020 the following 13 towns were using Single Stream: Andover, Belmont, Bristol, Danbury, Effingham, Freedom, Gilmanton, Hebron, Holderness, Moultonborough, Sanbornton, Sandwich, Tilton. (*Paige suggested contacting them directly to see if they are STILL using Single Stream.*)

~Paige visited the Moultonborough transfer station recently and received these answers from Ken Filpula (facility supervisor) on why the town decided to switch from source separated to SS in 2016. (**Note:** the below points are taken directly from Paige Wilson's e-mail to Ian H. Ian read these aloud at our meeting)

- Poor recycling market at the time.
- Needed to increase facility capacity to deal with population growth – \$2 million to upgrade building and equipment for source separated vs. \$60,000 for new balers and site work to switch to SS.
- Seasonal residents are often from out-of-state where they use SS, but Moultonborough still has a lot of issues with people recycling the wrong items.

- Continuing with source separated would have meant adding additional staff.
 - Spending 6 hours/day baling for a ~\$35/bale profit was not economical.
- Recycling is mandatory but not enforced. Ken used to do random bag checks which increased recycling rates but town administrator put a stop to it. Safety concerns and “invasion of privacy.”
 - Tara Albert (NHDES) said NH’s solid waste rules state that once someone brings their bag of trash to a facility, they are deeming it as trash and is no longer their private property, so bag checks are valid.
- Costs ~\$190/ton to dispose of SS – 3% cost increase/year with their 3-yr contract.

Multi Source Recycling:

Maud visited the Recycling facility in Walpole. (Located in SW NH). Walpole has a very successful multisource recycling facility. She spoke with Ben Hoy, who is the facility supervisor and handles marketing. Maud recommended we contact Mr. Hoy and get more detailed financial info.

~The facility does not require a permit, so there are no stickers to check.

~There is a Pay to Throw program: If residents from other towns want to use the facility, they can buy Pay to Throw bags and dispose of waste in Walpole. The cost is \$20 for 10 yellow bags. Recycled items are free. If residents do not have bags, their trash is weighed, and they are charged a sum for disposal. (About 30 cents a pound)

Maud noted the following:

- ~active volunteers,
- ~ vertical and horizontal balers,
- ~Composting
- ~Reuse Shop
- ~Bobcat vehicle to move commodities
- ~Pallet scale
- ~Comprehensive info for the public

Report to the SelectBoard:

Gabrielle and Willie shared a draft PowerPoint designed to present options to the Tamworth SelectBoard and to the public.

Discussion of what further information should be included in the PowerPoint:

- ~ Compare multi stream vs single stream programs in other towns: (suggested Tufonboro, Moultonborough, Gilford, Ossipee, Walpole)
- ~DES True Accounting form.

Please send further suggestions to Gabrielle or Willie: The presentation should be presented at the December 2nd SelectBoard meeting.

Meeting in December:

TSIC will meet December 7th

The group agreed to skip the December 20th meeting. (Time off for good behavior).

To Do List

TSIC Committee members:

- ~Review mission statement

~ Brainstorm a list of potential grant writers: *send suggestions to Ellen (she will forward to Gabrielle and Willie)*

~Review Draft PowerPoint, Draft cost analysis (**Documents sent via email**) send suggestions to Gabrielle or Willie

Willie:

~Formally request Maud's appointment to the Tamworth SelectBoard

~Meet with Effingham SelectBoard

~ True Accounting Form from DES

~ Determine a time to meet with the Tamworth SelectBoard (*Ellen will share date with TSIC members*)

~Contact Ben Hoy from Walpole for figures on recycling

Gabrielle: Continue to work on Draft Power point and grant (as time allows)

Jim: Continue to work on grant with Gabrielle

Maud: Ask Sue Stowbridge to consider an alternate position on the TSIC board

Ian: share additional Single Stream data as it becomes available.

Ellen: Set up December meeting with BOS (pending group progress)

Cancel December 20th meeting

7:40 Meeting Adjourned

Minutes E Farnum