



TOWN OF BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

P.O. BOX 360 – 1 Main Street
BROOKLINE, NH 03033-0360

Telephone (603) 673-8855, ext. 213

Fax (603) 673-8136

<http://www.brookline.nh.us>

Transfer Station Evaluation Committee Minutes Wednesday, October 24th, 2018

Attendees included committee members Jim Solinas, Peter Lemay, Guy Wadsworth, Ron Olsen, Jerry Farwell, Joan Cudworth, Mike Wenrich and Tad Putney. Also present was Seleboard member Eddie Arnold and Russ Bennett from Recycling Mechanical of New England.

Jim opened the meeting at 6:30pm. **Jerry** agreed to be the timekeeper.

Public Input

None.

Minutes

Mike moved, seconded by Peter, to approve the September 26th minutes as written; Voted Yes 8-0.

Update on Second and Third Compactors

Jim said the second compactor of recyclables is operational. **Mike** said he thinks the third compactor will be on-line in November. There was discussion about what is best for the third compactor – either soda bottles (PETE #1) or colored plastics. It was agreed that factors for determining which we should compact include: which has the higher price, which has the higher volume, and which has the best market. **Jerry** and **Eddie** will check on these at the next SRLD meeting.

Bus Tour Takeaways

Jim said that **Joan, Eddie, Mike, Jerry** and he participated in a visit to Harvey's recycling facility as well as the Wellesley, MA transfer station. **Jerry** noted that Wellesley has a population a little more than the combination of the four SRLD towns and their recycling is non-mandatory. **Russ** noted that single stream recycling is a bad idea. He said that Casella gets all the money to separate the items town residents were doing on their own before single stream. He said Merrimack was doing well, but went to single stream and lost about \$300,000 in revenue and eliminated only one staff member at their transfer station. **Joan** said at Harvey it was interesting that they were separating translucent and colored plastics. She said Wellesley had a mix of baling, until it broke, and compactors. **Jim** noted that Wellesley had great signage.

Baling Analysis

Peter reviewed a one-page analysis he had prepared comparing loose, compacted and baled recyclables. **Joan** asked if the figures were for Brookline or other SRLD towns. **Peter** said they are a mix of SRLD town figures so he can show compacted figures as Brookline does not compact steel cans. **Eddie** noted that year-to-date figures from SRLD show that Brookline is actually generating revenue on its loose steel cans this year in contrast to **Peter's** figures from 2017. **Peter** said that more revenue could be realized with baling, but **Eddie** pointed out there would need to be a capital investment to do so. **Jerry** noted we had reached the time limit for the topic. It was voted to move onto another topic by members on a 6-2 vote.

2017 SRLD Financial Review

Jim provided a review of 2017 SRLD finances by member town. He said the net revenue in 2017 to the district for recyclables, after haul fees, was \$7,372. By comparison, he said Candia, with about 4,200 residents generated recycling revenue of about \$28,000. **Joan** asked what Candia's operating expenses are. **Jim** said he could get the figures. **Jim** noted some significant costs are and will be incurred for the new equipment at the Brookline Transfer Station. He suggested \$60,000 for the two recyclables compactors in 2018. **Jerry** said the cost will be more like \$15,000. **Jim** suggested total equipment costs in the coming years, including multiple compactors, will be \$600,000 and he asked what will the return on investment be. **Jim** said that SRLD revenue is below budget for 2018 and asked what it will mean for the 2019 budget and what implications there may be for the needed equipment purchases for Brookline. **Jim** referenced his drawings for a building to be used for baling. **Guy** said that it is not on the agenda and should be on for a future meeting. **Jim** said he would put baling on a future agenda. **Peter** said that if we are going to spend a lot of money on compactors, we should consider if the money is better spent on baling. **Jerry** said that it is difficult to predict the price for recycled products given the recent drop in plastic revenue. **Jim** noted the revenue being generated in Peterborough and Candia from baling. **Joan** said that Candia now is paying to get rid of its plastics rather than baling them. **Russ** confirmed.

Russ Bennett re Baling

Jim asked **Russ** to tell the members what he is seeing among other towns. **Russ** said those towns that are set up to do baling are doing well at it. He said Brookline would need a building. He said the timing is not good for baling now due to depressed prices, but they always are fluctuating. **Russ** said baling steel and aluminum cans still make sense. **Jerry** asked if it makes sense given our volume of 8 and 10 tons annually, respectively. **Russ** said the aluminum cans would pay for the baler in about a year. It was noted we do not have any equipment that would be needed for baling. **Mike** asked about the minimum investment required to start baling. **Russ** said about \$15,000 for a baler. **Jerry** said it does not include a building. **Russ** said for steel and aluminum cans they can be stored outside, but the baler needs to be inside. **Jim** said it could be in the barn. **Jerry** asked about storage requirements for aluminum cans. **Russ** said about 10 gaylords for a bale. He said that one container of aluminum cans would result in about three bales. **Russ** said that the big savings with baling is the trucking. **Tad** asked if any NH towns had recently gone to baling. **Russ** said Gilford and Andover. **Russ** noted that the SRLD's use of compactors for trash is providing a good savings that other towns are going to. **Jim** asked if the SRLD is considering baling. **Jerry** said with four different towns/locations, it does not make sense as we would still have the hauling costs to deal with. **Russ** agreed. **Russ** estimated 25% of items that go in the trash

Transfer Station Evaluation Committee – Minutes

October 24, 2018

Page 3

could be recycled. He also said that when gas hits \$3.00 a gallon, it increases the price on plastic recyclables.

Draft Report

Tad reviewed the draft committee report he had circulated prior to the meeting. There was discussion about whether any additional changes should be recommended to the fee schedule. It was agreed that there should be a new charge of \$25 or \$35 for tractor tires.

Tad will check on Hollis's costs for them and align Brookline's fee with it. While discussing separating precious metals, **Joan** said that separating stainless steel is hard to do and time consuming. **Russ** agreed. There was discussion about obtaining a roll-off container for the storage and transportation of separated metals. **Joan** suggested NH the Beautiful was a potential source of 50% grant funds and she could deliver the application if we pursue it. **Joan** noted there are some roll-offs in Amherst that could be used and at virtually no cost. **Tad** suggested we get one, put gaylords in it and fill them over time with easily obtained precious metals. **Joan** said in will likely take us a year to fill it. There was discussion about having a pilot program for separating metals that would include tracking the time. **Tad** said that at a cost of \$20 per hour to have someone do separation, it would consume much of the revenue that would generated. **Jim** said their earlier effort generated \$600 and only took 10 hours. He said at \$20 per hour, the town would have netted \$400 after labor costs. **Tad** said that the 10 hours was over 4 weeks, so it would have average two hours a week. **Jerry** suggested having an existing staff member come in 30 minutes earlier each workday to work on the metal and that would be an additional 1.5 hours a week. **Joan** said she thought that was a good idea. On the baling section of the report, **Jerry** said that we will need a building and it makes sense to get the DPW garage in place and once it is, then can consider the baling option further.

Next Meeting

Members agreed that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 28th at 6:30 in the Town Hall meeting room.

Jerry moved, seconded by Joan, to adjourn the meeting; Voted Yes 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Minutes submitted by Tad Putney.