



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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Transfer Station Evaluation Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, November 28th, 2018

Attendees included committee members Jim Solinas, Peter Lemay, Guy Wadsworth, Ron Olsen, Joan Cudworth, Mike Wenrich and Tad Putney. Also present were residents Gary Nedelman, Jennifer Riendeau and Jim Rezzarday.

Jim opened the meeting at 6:28pm.

Public Input

None.

Minutes

**Joan moved, seconded by Guy, to approve the October 24th meeting minutes as written;
Voted Yes 8-0.**

Guest Speaker – Gary Nedelman

Gary said that he works in industrial plastics in central Massachusetts and he deals with solid waste and recycled products for the company. He said he is a licensed toxic use reduction expert. He also said that he has experience in haul charges and recycling revenue. He said our transfer station is something we should all be proud of and it is handled in a neat and organized way. **Gary** said he had reviewed the SRLD figures and noted that Brookline has the highest recycling rate of the four member towns and **Jim** and his staff should be commended. He said he has not seen objective data on alternatives to our current approach and he would be willing to help with such an analysis. He said he thinks our current volumes will likely not justify significant capital expenses to change how we currently operate, but he thinks we should do the math.

Gary suggested we consider opening the transfer station Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays solely for brush and compost for a few weeks in November, for example, to assist those doing clean-ups. **Jennifer** suggested closing an hour earlier in the winter. **Joan** suggested counting cars by the hour and see if the data – specifically limited use of the facility from 7-8pm - suggests an earlier closing.

New Recycling Compactor

Peter expressed frustration that SRLD decided to go with colored plastics as it was deemed “easiest” and wished the committee’s input would be part of the decision. **Joan** said SRLD

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had a comprehensive discussion about going with color at this point, but it is potentially changeable in the future. She said that ease for the residents was a key consideration.

Jim said there is a process within the SRLD agreement for amendments to it if we come up with some other idea for working with the district. He said one potential model, building off Hollis's approach, is to have more recyclables compactors. He said having sorting trays in Brookline like Hollis would be helpful. **Gary** said we should look at the operations of the transfer station as a three-legged balancing act of:

- Environmental considerations
- Social considerations
- Economic considerations

Jim Rezzarday said that Windham's transfer station has a good system for sorting recyclables that is worth looking at. **Tad** suggested that we just get some folding tables in place to assist residents with sorting recyclables.

Peter moved, seconded by Guy, to consider what items to place in the latest recycling compactor at the next committee meeting; Voted Yes 4-3.

Other Items for Discussion

After some discussion, it was agreed that two sub-teams would be formed to pursue specific analysis/research on behalf of the committee:

- **Peter, Ron and Mike** would look at the metal pile and come up with ideas/recommendations for the whole committee to consider at its next meeting
- **Jim, Gary and Guy** would conduct a financial/economic analysis of alternative approaches for the transfer station for the whole committee to consider at its next meeting

Gary asked why Brookline's preliminary 2019 SRLD payment was increasing 10.1%, but Amherst's was only going up about 2%. **Tad** said he would reach out to **Deb** at SRLD tomorrow for an answer. **Jim** asked that **Tad** also ask for SRLD's current capital reserve balance.

Jim said he did not see the need for a meeting in December. **Tad** suggested that **Jim** call for a full committee meeting in January or February when the financial/economic analysis subgroup has completed its work. **Tad** noted the committee's charter expires at town meeting in March.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Minutes submitted by Tad Putney.