

## Solid Waste Committee Meeting

**Monday, February 24, 2025, 2025, 3:30 PM**

**Members Present:** Rich Marcou (*Chair*), LeeAnn Mackey, Stephen Rasche, Roy Plisko, Greg Heath

**Members Absent:** Kent Ruesswick (*BOS rep*), Kim Scamman, Elle Bezanson

## Agenda:

### 1. Call to Order:

Rich called the meeting to order at 3:32pm.

## 2. Accept Previous Minutes:

Greg made a motion to accept the minutes of *February 3, 2025, as amended*, Roy seconded. No further discussion, all voted in favor.

approved edits to minutes:

Line 53: change to “work done for the Town Complex and new Library, which took...”

Fix edit to 1/27/25 minutes Line 59: “Ken informed us that DES said, NO”

### 3. New Business:

## Updates on Warrant Articles

### Three Warrant Articles:

- \$6500.00 Warrant Article did get approved by the BOS, recommended by the BOS, no tax impact.

- Hazardous Waste Day: The quote is \$10,590.00. The BOS foresee \$291.00 coming back to the town as a grant to offset the cost of the quote.
- The Committees Petition Article will still be on due to the signatures of all of the people, technically we can't withdraw it, but we can request that it be voted down.
- Stephens Petition Warrant Article will also be included.

**Transfer Station Updates:**

The transfer station is now taking mixed paper. Tipping fees increased tonnage by 5 tons of paper in December due to not taking paper. Roy pointed out to the committee that we do pay for them to take the paper bales once they are bailed because of the labor involved making the bales. Roy shared his experience of watching five men making two bales and the point that we are paying hourly plus the shipping.

Stephen has experienced fluctuations and says it is difficult to do a cost-benefit analysis of recycling revenue due to the monthly fluctuations.

Greg asked if they were storing it to the extent they can and watching prices? Rich responded that it is ideal and how it should work, however due to lack of storage space it is difficult to do. Rich expounded on different waste materials and their associated market values.

Greg understood Roy's point of view about the overall cost of creating the bales and shipping them and that we are not taking that into consideration. The Committee all agreed that it is a net loss, but Roy reminded that there is the fact of the actual point of recycling.

Rich reiterated that is another reason for the needed storage space, it allows you to watch the market and then sell when the prices are high, but you have to have a place to store which is costly.

#### **TOWN MEETING TALKING POINTS**

Rich asked for the committee's input and feedback on the talking points and asked committee members to take a section and work together to present at the town meeting.

Rich volunteered to do Hazardous Waste Day, he discussed the bullet points and asked the question, should we limit how much the residents can bring and only suggest that because the last hazardous waste day was shut down early because it reached its maximum and there was not a limit to how much people could bring.

The committee clarified the procedure at town meeting, that each warrant article would be read and then the committee would speak up to justify as needed.

#### **Talking Points for Town Meeting:**

##### **Committee Work: (Rich will introduce this section at town meeting)**

- The committee for the last 2 years, outlining the outstanding problems and issues at TS
  - Driven by:
    - Complaints from citizens, interviewing staff at TS, operations of the TS
  - Solutions deliberated, yet remain unresolved due to:
    - Small space, poor lighting, organized poorly (set-up design), safety issues for workers and public
  - Survey sent out last fall

##### **Issues: (Stephen will speak to this section)**

- Footprint Size: using approximately 2 out of 6 acres, due to the UNCAPPED landfill and wetlands
- Sharing site with Highway, limits storage solution (kicked out of salt shed for winter)
- Power: 3-phase expense to run lines from center to the TS down Baptist Road -COST
- Uncapped landfill: DES rules limit storage solutions and operations.
- Health effects of idling diesel packer truck inside the building
  - Air study? Cost 10K+

- Safety: vehicle traffic and pedestrian safety
  - Great deal of walking for aging population, stations are spread out, many hazards around and on the floor, at times there are long lines (impatient citizens)
  - Workers: managing drop-off stations, walking across traffic
- Uncapped landfill:
  - Water monitoring possible issues, ultimately will need to move site when it is forced to close. (Stephen disagrees with this point, we all agreed to change “will need” to “IF it needs” to move)

#### Improvements: (Roy will speak on Improvements)

- More storage for baled recyclables, to make a full truck load (eliminate penalty), need to stay dry and weather tight until shipment
- Lighting upgrade: LED’s cause “shadows,” need more of it and better emergency lighting
- Packer truck 20 years old:
  - will need replacing eventually,
  - possible air quality due to the idling issue
- Electrical Compactor:
  - need for 3 phase power,
  - allows for increased capacity and less frequent trips for disposal,
  - eliminates idling vehicle issues.
- Composting site:
  - food waste is 20-25% of trash, need to start composting somewhere!
  - Tipping fees have increased 21% over the last 4 years, instant savings
- Weighing scale:
  - citizens charged for C&D by “volume” when disposed, yet town is charged by “weight” (tonnage).
- Better traffic flow, lessen walking between stations, reduce hazards
  - Worker and pedestrian safety, zig zagging around cars
- Secure office with a bathroom and hand washing
- Updated fees schedule to cover actual costs accrued by the town to dispose of items. Committee decided this should not be included as part of “improvements” but agreed that “signage” at the current site is an issue and discussed strategies. Agreed to remove “fee schedule” and change it to “better signage”.

#### Study: (LeeAnn will be the “closer” and speak to the Study section)

- Warrant Article: **Request** to use \$6500 for a feasibility and suitability study of the Transfer Station, to renovate/expand the current site or determine if the current site is not suitable for this purpose.
- NO COST to the town, funds are already in a capital reserve account.
- **Cost estimates** are to be addressed simultaneously by the committee over the next year:
  - Storage structures, relocating Highway Dept to garage to gain space
  - Power upgrade to 3 phase

- Cost for Town-wide trash pickup (with and without recyclables)
- Partnering with another town (Loudon)

**Full report to the town:**

- by the next town meeting with overall cost estimates. (The committee decided that it might be best if the information gets out before, maybe a forum in the Fall?)

**Hazardous Waste Day: (Rich will take this Warrant article)**

- **5/24/25**, for Canterbury residents only
  - Location: At Transfer Station or someplace else?
- **8 years** since last event, 10 AM – 2 PM, cut short due to budget (10K) quickly spent.
- Town is Funding **\$10,500**, quote \$10,590,
  - Grant = 2426 (population) x \$0.12 = \$291
- 250 “**units**” (\$33/unit),
  - 1 Unit = 5 gallons **or** 20 lbs. **or** combination of the two
- Should we **limit** how much residents can bring?
  - Possible options:
    - Limit to 10 gal or 2 units
      - **or** no limits?
    - Charge residents if over that limit?
      - Full rate, reduced rate? (Quoted cost is \$33/unit)
    - Include or exclude businesses?
    - The intent is to keep the event running for as long as possible.

LeeAnn reminded the committee that there is a Q & A at the town meeting during each warrant article, and she stressed that the committee needs to know the answers to the questions. She would like confirmation about the air study, whether it has been done or not. She remembered hearing it was done, and Roy had heard it was done as well. Rich said as far as his knowledge there has not been air study done. The committee agrees an air study could be helpful.

Leeann shared information about a PFAS data sheet from DES and would like to have it go out to the committee members. She discussed PFAS, where it is found, naturally in a landfill.

144 LeeAnn and Roy discussed the possibility of being in violation of OSHA with the  
145 bathroom and hand washing facilities at the transfer station. There are exceptions to part-  
146 time and full-time employees. But more research needs to be done.

147 Questions arose regarding the most accurate and current Fee Schedule and if it is  
148 being adhered to and improved signage was discussed.

149 LeeAnn suggested that for comprehension reasons, streamline the message and  
150 bullet point reasons, and strong conclusion instead of going through everything.

151 Rich shared that by alternating different presenters, it will be more engaging.  
152 LeeAnn stressed what would stick with them is the “what and why”. Greg shared that  
153 Rich’s outline will not take long to go through the points, we can be more detailed when  
154 we are asked questions.

155 Rich asked about and Stephen provided an update on the electrification of the  
156 packer truck. He identified a contact in Loudon who can facilitate this conversion  
157 efficiently and cost-effectively (Russ Maille). This solution would extend the operational  
158 life of the truck. The committee also deliberated on the feasibility and costs associated  
159 with acquiring a used rollup truck. Stephen invited Russ to elaborate at a committee  
160 meeting and it was decided to wait until Kim returns (the 24<sup>th</sup> or the following meeting in  
161 April).

162 **Action Items:**

- 163 • **LeeAnn draft a handout for bullet points for the town meeting** (Send to Rich  
164 prior to the meeting and to Michelle to make copies)

165 **Adjournment:**

166 Rich made a motion to adjourn, and Roy seconded at 4:40pm.

167 *Next Meeting: March 10, 2025, 3:30 PM in the Meeting House.*

168                      Respectfully submitted,

169 Michelle Hammond

170 Secretary for the Solid Waste Committee