

Solid Waste Committee Meeting

Monday, March 10, 2025, 3:30 PM

Members Present: Rich Marcou (*Chair*), LeeAnn Mackey, Stephen Rasche, Roy Plisko, Kent Ruesswick (*BOS rep*)

Members Absent: Kim Scamman, Elle Bezanson, Greg Heath

Agenda:

1. Call to Order:

Rich called the meeting to order at 3:28 pm.

2. Accept Previous Minutes:

Ken made a motion to accept the minutes of *February 24, 2025*, Stephen seconded. No further discussion, all voted in favor.

3. Town Meeting Presentation:

LeeAnn and Roy created a condensed town summary. Kent will present the warrant article transfer station upgrade at the town meeting. Rich reviewed the warrant article and questions and answers brought up by the Board of Selectmen for discussion at town meeting.

The committee agreed on the presentation that Kent will deliver.

LeeAnn's document will be available at the town meeting if needed and kept for future reference.

Rich expressed his feelings from the last meeting and presented the committee with a timeline of the decision-making process from December to present.

22 Friday at the town meeting, Rich would like to present the findings by offering a
23 public town forum spring/summer in the library meeting room.

24 He would like the committee to try to get a land bond for the 2026 town meeting
25 to mitigate the tax impact for land at the 2027 town meeting.

26 Discussion continued regarding the funds not originally being for the purpose of
27 the study. LeeAnn stressed that there were questions that needed to be asked before we
28 could move forward. Roy added figuring out what land would cost as well.

29 Rich mentioned that the survey was utilized to assist with the budget committee,
30 which questioned the necessity of the move of the transfer station. However, Calvin
31 Todd suggested doing a study and looking at the cost and the budget committee agreed.

32 Rich emphasized the importance of working together as a committee. He
33 mentioned the potential need for a consensus meeting where the topic would be
34 deliberated, and everyone would have to cast their vote. If not all members vote, the
35 decision is pending, requiring further deliberation.

36 LeeAnn felt there was no descension, she understood that a lot of decisions had to
37 be made and appreciated Rich's explanation. She just wanted to be clear that we need to
38 be cohesive as a committee.

39 Roy voiced his concern that none of the decision making is made in a voting
40 format. He would like it debated, objection, ideas added and then it is moved to a vote.

41 Roy mentioned that he seeks more details on certain matters, not necessarily
42 because he disagrees, but to ensure thorough understanding before voting. He indicated
43 that if formally asked, his decision might differ. Leeann emphasized the importance of
44 discourse. Roy prefers exploring different perspectives and collaborating like a jury

discussion before voting. Kent highlighted the concept of consensus and compared it to simply taking votes.

Roy inquired about the process of reaching consensus. Kent responded that voicing opinions is crucial, and once consensus is reached, everyone understands and agrees on the problem, which differs from merely taking a vote.

Rich prepared bullet points on conducting a consensus meeting and distributed them to the committee as follows:

Consensus Meeting:

- A decision-making process that pleases everyone.
- It relies on group participation to help consider the ideas and needs of everyone involved.
- Everyone can contribute to a discussion that ultimately leads to a collective decision.
- Requires individual participation by everyone, encourages open communication, and active listening.
- Each participant will contribute ideas, opinions, and concerns for the entire group to discuss.
- Based on this discussion, the group collectively determines a solution that best addresses each participant's contribution.
- Participants can then make a final decision once everyone present has come to agree with the rest of the group in a mutual agreement and are content with it.
- When every person is satisfied with the final decision, a consensus is reached.

67 A majority rule can sometimes allow someone to undermine the committee's
68 topic. It's important to discuss why a member opposes the topic and understand their
69 perspective.

70 Kent mentioned that his committee of 11 people never had issues with
71 disagreements. We drastically changed our approach after presenting it to the selectman,
72 and then to the budget committee. The process involved numerous meetings and
73 extensive behind-the-scenes work, including communication with Ken Folsom all while
74 ensuring proper communication while adhering to the right-to-know laws was
75 challenging.

76 Roy brought up Robert's Rules of Order and the process but also indicated that
77 there is room for both approaches. Kent expressed concern that a simple "Yay" or "Nay"
78 vote polarizes the process.

79 The selectmen plan to hold Right to Know law training for each town committee.
80 The committee will be notified of the training as soon as it becomes available.

81 **Other Business:**

- 82 • Roy won't be here next meeting.
- 83 • This is Kent's last meeting. He wanted to thank the committee for all the work you do.
- 84 • Meeting with Aris to be initiated
- 85 • Sooner data is collected the more prepared the committee will be for the public hearing

86 **Action Items:**

87 LeeAnn to provide Gilford numbers for the next meeting.

88 **Adjournment:**

89 Kent made a motion to adjourn, and Stephen seconded at 4:27pm.

90 *Next Meeting March 24, 2025, 3:30 PM in the Meeting House.*

91 Respectfully submitted,

92 Michelle Hammond

93 Secretary for the Solid Waste Committee