

1 Solid Waste Committee Meeting
2 May 26, 2025 @3:30 PM
3 Meeting House
4
5 DRAFT
6
7 Members Present
8 Rich Marcou (Chair), Lee Ann Mackey, Beth Blair (BOS rep), Stephen Rasche, Elle Bezanson,
9 David Bowles (Transfer Station Manager), Russ Maille, Megan Portnoy
10 Members Absent
11 Greg Heath. Roy Plisko, Kim Scammon
12 Also absent
13 Michelle Hammond, secretary for the Solid Waste Committee (these minutes taken by Stephen
14 Rasche)
15 Others present
16 Adrienne Hutchinson (former transfer station manager)
17
18 Agenda
19 Call To Order
20 Rich called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM
21
22 Accept Previous Minutes
23 Lee Ann motioned to accept the previous minutes. Elle seconded
24 Discussion. Adrienne pointed out that the Recycling Committee was formed in 1986, not 2000
25 as the minutes stated. Beth asked about the process to amend Treasure House rules. The
26 answer is to submit a request to the chair for agenda item and discussion and then forward on
27 to the BOS. She also asked about why there is no co-chair. The minutes stated that it was
28 discussed but gave no explanation. The answer is that the issue has never come up before.

29 Beth has several grammatical changes in several sections which she will email to Michelle (the
30 regular minutes taker). Lee Ann motioned to table the approval of the minutes until Michelle
31 can put in the changes but later, as the grammatical changes are not substantive in nature
32 motioned to accept the minutes and Elle seconded.

33

34 New Business

35 New Members

36 Russ Maille, who had been attending previous meetings as an interested bystander has
37 volunteered to join the committee and Rich sent a request to have the BOS sign off on the
38 appointment. That is still being worked on so he is unofficially on the committee and we expect
39 the appointment to be approved soon.

40 Megan Portnoy, who also serves on the Planning Board, expressed interest in being on the
41 committee and the BOS has officially appointed her.

42 Welcome to both new members.

43

44 Action Item follow-up:

45 Beth questioned whether the Treasure House should be under the jurisdiction of the Solid
46 Waste Committee (SWC) or whether it should function as a stand-alone volunteer group
47 working under the guidance and supervision of Transfer Station Manager David Bowles.

48 Stephen offered the historical background that after the Treasure House shut down during the
49 pandemic, it was resurrected due to the efforts of Emily Burr who was on the SWC at the time.
50 When Emily stepped back from managing the Treasure House he volunteered to pick up the
51 slack keeping track of the schedule and sending out weekly reminders to the volunteers who
52 had shifts coming up. That is the extent of his management.

53 Rich said that he is okay if the Treasure House is disconnected from the SWC.

54 Adrienne mentioned that the person in charge needs to be certified as a solid waste
55 professional (i.e. to be authorized to say what can and cannot be accepted there) so therefore it
56 makes sense that the management of the Treasure House really should belong to David.

57 Rich did a file review on the files that Ken has in the office. He reported that there were a few
58 items in the file but nothing substantial. There was the Mission statement from 2016 with the
59 charges by the BOS, a thing on invasive plants, a survey from 2017, 3 phase power upgrade
60 quote from 2017, and the towns recycling ordinance from 1989.

61

62 Hazardous Waste Day

63 Rich reported that the vendor showed up at 9:00 and got set up so the event started at 9:30, a
64 half hour before the 10:00 plan. Prior to noon the rule was one unit (20 pounds of dry
65 chemicals or 5 gallons of liquid chemicals, or a combination of the two) per vehicle. If the car
66 had more they were told they could come back after noon and if the town limit of 247 units
67 hadn't been reached yet they could drop off the rest then. Everyone was understanding of the
68 rule. In the first 2 hours there were 130 units dropped off. By 1:15 we had reached the town
69 limit so the two remaining cars in line were unable to drop off their waste. Later 5 other cars
70 came and could not be accommodated. In all Rich estimates that there were over 100 cars. The
71 overall feedback from the towns people was positive. The suggestions were that we should do
72 this more often. Some people dropped off anti-freeze and used motor oil which are always
73 accepted at the transfer station which is problem in that this takes up units that could have
74 been used for hazardous waste that isn't accepted at the Transfer Station. How to screen
75 these out next time? We would need volunteers to talk to the towns people in line before they
76 got to the professionals running the event, because once they get there the professionals need
77 to be left alone. Beth suggested having someone at the sorting table to catch those items. Rich
78 also thanked Greg Heath for volunteering. Greg went down the line of waiting cars to let
79 people know that this was a line for hazardous waste, and if all they needed to do was drop off
80 waste and recyclables at the transfer station they could get out of line and drive up to the
81 transfer station. Rich proposed putting in a budget item for hazardous waste every year to fund
82 a hazardous waste day every other year. He also mentioned that the informal survey question
83 'If you were allowed to drop off latex paint, how many gallons would you bring' gave a
84 combined total of 468 gallons. There was some discussion of a proposed bill in the state
85 legislature to add a fee to sales of latex paint with the proceeds to be used for proper disposal.
86 The bill was set aside.

87 Adrienne confirmed that the last hazardous waste day ran through the allotted units in about
88 two and a half hours. When Adrienne ran the transfer station she had proposed setting up a
89 capital reserve fund for hazardous waste and other uses.

90 Beth thought these were good ideas and suggested bringing it up with the budget committee at
91 the start of the budget process. She also asked about the handouts which she found very
92 helpful. Rich said much of the info on the handouts was on the web site but he will email the
93 handout document to Beth. **ACTION ITEM: Rich to provide Beth with electronic versions of**
94 **items used in the handout.**

95

Board of Selectmen Meeting on May 19.

Rich said that he was very disappointed with the feedback from the BOS. He felt that if the BOS had concerns they should have reached out to him instead of just bringing it up at the meeting. He pointed out that incidents that the BOS found disturbing, Stephen's petition warrant article to replace the packer truck with an electric compactor, and Roy's research and report on PFAS and other contamination at the transfer station were not sponsored by or supported by the SWC. They were done as actions any citizen could have taken on their own. Stephen pointed out that members of the SWC committee spoke out at town meeting against his warrant article reinforcing the point that it was not an instance of the SWC going against the BOS.

Rich read parts of an email from Greg saying that he is discouraged by the lack of respect that the SWC got from the BOS and questions whether it is worth investing his time and energy in the committee.

Lee Ann pointed out that the SWC has looked into a lot of issues such as getting different green bags, or replacing the bags with stickers for towns people to put on their own bags but that when we found no practical way to improve the process. We let the issue drop rather than bringing it up the BOS.

Beth pointed out that the BOS was concerned that the SWC processes needed to be improved to bring projects to completion. She said that going over prior minutes showed that the work involved trying to improve the transfer station at the current site and that suddenly the August 2024 minutes showed a shift to wanting to replace the existing transfer station at a new location. There seemed to be no lead up to it and no explanation of why the focus changed. She said that there has been no decision to disband the SWC and that she wants to work to improve communication.

Adrienne said that the only disrespectful comments came from a single BOS member and that Beth was supportive of the committee. Adrienne mentioned that the recycling committee has been disbanded by the BOS years ago with no public input and she was afraid that the SWC was about to suffer the same fate. She reiterated that Beth supports the SWC.

Meghan said that she became interested in joining the SWC because her property abuts the transfer station and she is concerned about PFAS and other contamination. She said that she felt unwelcome by Rich because she was appointed by the BOS without Rich's input. She emphasized that the SWC is an appointed advisory committee. It is not an elected office and it doesn't make policy, only makes recommendations. She suggested that if we work on a project and come to the conclusion that there is no better solution than what we already have, don't just set that aside. Get it in the minutes and present the conclusions to the BOS so that the BOS can look at the process and make the decision on their own.

131 Rich gave a history of some of the projects and felt that Kent's presence at the BOS
132 representative should have been enough to keep the BOS informed.

133 Beth said that she feels the SWC and the BOS are not on the same page and wants to improve
134 the process so projects can be successfully completed.

135 Adrienne reiterated Meghan's point about bringing project results to the BOS even if the best
136 course seems to be to drop the project. This provides documentation in case the project is
137 brought up again in the future. It would provide background and a starting point for future
138 SWC and BOS members in case the issue resurfaces.

139 Beth invited all interested members of the SWC to the BOS meeting on June 16th.

140

141 Action Items

- 142 • BOS meeting on June 16th.
- 143 • Rich to send pictures from HWD to Beth via email
- 144 • Rich to send handout information to Beth

145

146 Adjournment

147 Rich motioned to adjourn. (Time not recorded, but it was approximately 510-515 PM) Lee Ann
148 seconded.

149

150 Next meeting

151 June 23rd, 2025 at 330 PM in the Meeting House

152

153

154

155