

TRANSFER STATION TASK FORCE

Minutes approved on July 21, 2021

July 7, 2021

9:00 am

Zoom Remote Access

Members in attendance: Barney Arnold, Thornton Ash, Tom Bilotta, John Lavery, Christine Lear, Carren Panico, Carrie Patel, Rob Peary, John Petrie, Mary Zoll

Call to Order - 9:03 meeting call to order

I. Approve minutes from June 9 and June 23, 2021 meetings

Tom Bilotta moved that we approve and Thornton Ash seconded. Minutes were approved with all voting aye and 1 abstention (Mary Zoll)

II. Review overview for each working group

Discussion began on Organization & Operation document led by Thornton Ash. Can this task force actually reduce the waste as is part of the charge from the Select Board? Perhaps some of the items that currently go into our solid waste could be used by charities. The town could build relationships with area charities that need items currently being thrown away. Carren Panico said that there are often useful items for charities or other residents that are left in the dirt or out in rain or snow, making them useless to anyone. Mary Zoll noted that the town has received a grant to set up a mattress collection container that will save mattresses from the weather and be disposed of properly. This will keep the mattresses out of our solid waste. Tom Bilotta added that C&D vs solid waste needs consideration since wood is a significant component of solid waste. Barney responded that Solid Waste is what is placed in the compactor and needs to be reduced but that the Select Board wants all aspects of the Transfer Station examined including C&D. Mary Zoll added that accessibility also needs to be addressed.

The discussion then moved on to the charge that Carlisle should be brought into compliance with state laws concerning recycling. Tim Goddard doesn't believe that this is an issue. Barney Arnold clarified that the town complies technically but many residents do dispose of stuff incorrectly in violation of state bans. Christine Lear said that education key to improving compliance

The next topic was the charge to reduce the cost of operating the transfer station. Tom Bilotta believes that revenue neutrality of our initiatives needs discussion at some point. Carrie Patel said it may cost money to implement initiatives – how will this be addressed? Barney Arnold said there is opportunity for state grants to assist with expenses.

The fourth item on the chart is to create an equitable system for paying in proportion to solid waste generation by each household. We need to look at the available data, educate the community on all aspects of the transfer station the costs of the facility and how do we reinforce whatever systems we recommend are put in place? Tom Bilotta noted that commercial use should be considered when exploring an equitable system for all residents of Carlisle. Carren Panico suggested that small businesses also be considered in this point. While Barney Arnold said that we still need to support local business any changes should be equitable - don't want to discourage small business. John Lavery believes this should apply to contractors as well, we want to encourage home improvements which add to tax base. Mary Zoll is concerned about people outside of town dump trash in our transfer station which speaks to enforcement. Carren Panico added that additional enforcement must be weighed against increased cost. Christine Lear added that tradeoffs are an important consideration for changes to current operation.

Mary Zoll presented for the education subcommittee. Tom Bilotta suggested a website for citizen questions about what is recyclable. Christine suggested QR codes on specific recycling containers that would take users to the webpage with specific information about recycling in that specific container. It

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is easy to set up and there is no cost to setting it up. Tom suggested adding education focused on food waste reduction such as understanding of dates on products. John Petrie suggested action to communicate resource and policy for public events such as the chicken barbecue as a teaching opportunity. Carren said that approach was taken at strawberry festival in June of this year.

The Data Collection SubGroup shared their goals and methodology. Christine recommended focus on current status. John Lavery recommended we obtain detailed information available from Gary Davi. John Lavery joined the Data Collection Subgroup.

III. Logistics

Christine commented on new area for public documents set up by Carrie Patel. This will be a Google Docs account that will be accessible to the public through the TSTF webpage on the town website. Carrie invited all Task Force members to add docs. Christine indicated docs should not be edited by members of the committee as it would present a problem with open meeting laws. But committee members should add documents and let Christine know when they have do so. She will alert the entire task force that the documents have been added.

Thornton and Tom to coordinate discussions with Gary regarding current status. Rob Peary to provide data on recycling in Carlisle.

(Carren & Mary left the meeting)

The Data Collection subgroup had a phone conversation with Julia Greene who is the Mass DEP representative who supports Carlisle. There were several highlighted points. First Julia views Carlisle as a trash importer, that is we are receiving trash from outside of the town. One area she highlighted in particular is our acceptance of construction and demolition debris. Another important point is that she indicated that the towns we had selected to learn from were in fact misrepresented due to underreporting of trash that is processed outside of the municipal system (Lincoln and Wellesley). She indicated we can call with additional questions but if we required her to perform actual research some financial arrangement might be needed.

IV. Next meeting on July 21, 2021 at 9:00 am via zoom. Christine will continue to strive for participation from Mosquito so that public is informed.

V. Motion to adjourn made, seconded and approved at 10:13 am. Submitted by Tom Bilotta.

Approved by unanimous vote at the September 1, 2021 Transfer Station Task Force Meeting.