

## TRANSFER STATION TASK FORCE

Minutes  
August 4, 2021  
9:00 am  
Zoom Remote Access

Members in attendance: Thornton Ash, Tom Bilotta, John Lavery, Carren Panico, John Petrie

Call to Order @ 9:03am

Motion to approve minutes from July 21. Rob Peary said his name wasn't on the list.

Motion to approve the minutes as amended with the inclusion of Rob Peary from Thornton Ash. Seconded by Rob Peary. Voice Vote, all in favor.

Tom Bilotta presented his draft update from the Data Committee.

Overview:

1<sup>st</sup> section – providing report to task force, including what we will include

2<sup>nd</sup> section – data points added. Fairly lengthy discussion about Construction/Demolition Debris.

3<sup>rd</sup> section – How do we treat private haulers – their “loads” do not get accounted for in the solid waste stream for the State of Mass. The State has recommended permitting private haulers in order to capture that data.

Two major points in the report:

State does not capture waste that private haulers takes. Recommend permitting to get that information.

Second major point – Carlisle produces too much solid waste. One suspected reason why is that the town has not been engaging community members regarding new recycling initiatives. Carlisle could capture more solid waste, textiles, mattresses if more residents knew about the programs. The town needs a big education campaign in order to inform the people. It was suggested that the data campaign include the fact that recycling is required by law and that as of right now, we are out of compliance. While the State isn't generally enforcing penalties now, they may do so in the future. Tom Bilotta estimated that 2-400 tons of waste could be removed from the solid waste stream with more education around recycling.

There was a discussion about private haulers and a belief that the number of households being served by private haulers would be increasing in the future. From a reporting point of view, it was thought that capturing the amount of solid waste and recycling that private haulers are taking out of Carlisle would change how we look on State reporting. Basically, we would look better.

Tom Bilotta said that we could have a target for increasing recycling by the next meeting.

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On the Agenda for the next meeting: Discussion & information about local private haulers and out of town haulers. It's possible the local private haulers are not recycling at all and that could be regulated by the town.

This led the way to a lively discussion about doing a single stream recycling experiment. John Lavery report that he asked a long-time Carlisle resident what was the one thing the town could do to increase recycling and she said – convenience. If our goal is truly to divert recyclables from the solid waste stream, then the best way to do that is single stream. It was noted that this is in conflict with Gary's interest in maintaining the revenue streams from cardboard and glass.

Lavery proposed an experiment:

Pull out one of the dumpsters and label it single stream recycling (with real signage, not fake, powerful, obvious signage). All items would be included. There would be no prohibition because it is better to throw in the single stream than to throw in the so lid waste dumpster. Experiment would run for 90 days. We would assume that most of what is collected \*would have\* otherwise gone in the dumpster. Unfortunately, Gary was not present at the meeting to help fine tune this plan.

Some ideas were thrown around. It was thought that it might be worthwhile to continue to have the paper, cardboard and glass recycling for those folks who still wished to contribute to town revenue in that way. Private haulers would also be engaged to see if they could get their customers to participate. A suggestion was thrown out to use one of the containers that goes on the compactor and to compact the recyclables at night when the compactor isn't in use. It was also suggested that 6 months might be a better time frame. A final suggestion was made to set up a subgroup to work on the issue, if we decide to move forward.

John Lavery raised a final point about submitting a progress report to the Select Board. He stated that he would get the ball rolling by creating a slide deck. Each subcommittee could fill their own slides and they would all be put together into one presentation. Some people felt that it was too early. However, it is never too early for a rough draft.

Next meeting was set for August 18<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

Meeting adjourned at 10:06 by unanimous vote.

Submitted by Carren Panico.

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