

**Blue Hill/Surry Transfer Station
Solid Waste Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 23, 2023, at 4:00 PM | Blue Hill Town Hall**

Called Meeting to order at 4:04 pm

1. **Quorum and meeting attendance** – Quorum established. Committee members present: Scott Miller (BH), Thomas Welgoss (S) (via online); Chris Stark (S), Mary Allen (S), Ellen Best (BH), Sean Dooley (BH), Nicholas Nadeau (BH TA), Michelle Rockwell (Treasurer), and Jim Dow (member of public).
2. **Approve BHSTS Committee Meeting Minutes of April 25th** – E. Best moved to accept the minutes as written, C. Stark seconded. Approved: 5-0
3. **Public & Sending Town's Comments.** Jim Dow wanted to know if the Transfer Station Committee Minutes were posted online. There was some discussion; they should be; some are and some are not. TA N. Nadeau will review. Jim also made the comment that the transfer station is uncommonly neat and looks great! He's glad to hear that the recycle bin is working again.

Business Items

1. **Monthly review of expense/revenues**

N. Nadeau reviewed expenses and revenues with the committee. 70% of the MSW transport budget has been spent. Scott will call the MRC to see what is happening with PERC. N. Nadeau will do a financial projection concerning the rise in cost to transport MSW to Juniper Ridge.

Wages are up a bit but will even out throughout the year. Audit Fees are up as well as we are in the midst of the audit now. N. Nadeau discussed new cash controls put in place at the transfer station to ensure proper handling, which should please the auditors.

Demo Tip Fees seem to be low, the committee request that this be reviewed for accuracy. Routine Maintenance will be overspent as TS Manager J. Emerson is fixing equipment that has been needed and delayed. E. Best mentioned utilizing some reserves for such expenses. There was discussion regarding securing a quote for repair of the concrete wall given contractors busy schedules.

2. **MRC Update**

S. Miller had another executive session with the MRC. The MRC is hopeful that the closing date on the Hampden waste facility will be June 2nd. S. Miller mentioned he would resist signing a new joinder agreement with the MRC.

3. **Transfer Station Manager/Town Administrator Updates**

J. Emerson and D. Soper have agreed to do the mowing at the transfer station, using Town of Blue Hill equipment. The Town of Blue Hill has purchased mowers and will let

the transfer station utilize these at a reasonable cross-charge cost for normal wear and tear.

M. Allen mentioned trying not to mow until August on the landfill to allow for certain birds to nest. S. Miller mentioned there was a state (DEP) agreement concerning mowing the landfill. We are willing to wait until August if the agreement doesn't state otherwise. M. Allen will do the necessary work and review the agreement with the DEP. J. Emerson and N. Nadeau have a list of items to tackle but are working diligently to get the list complete.

4. **Other Business** – S. Dooley mentioned that the “Dump Sticker Required” sign had been moved. He asked if we are charging for stickers. There was discussion about short-term rentals bringing trash and the possibility of charging a fee for a temporary sticker. E. Best mentioned having the owner put a dump sticker on something portable to give to the tenants for the use of the transfer station. The Committee discussed putting a notice out on the various town websites to ask short-term rental landlords to take notice concerning waste disposal of their tenants. Most short-term rentals turn over on Sunday, at which time the transfer station is closed. Surry members mentioned waste being improperly disposed on these turnover days when the tenants are required to take care of waste. The Committee would like to discuss a possible fee for temporary transfer station stickers.

E. Best asked about the Biennial Recycling Progress Report for Municipalities. M. Rockwell mentioned this is still in progress.

C. Stark talked about his discussions concerning involving the area youth in reducing waste and costs associated. Steve Whitney is the advisor for GSA's Ecology Club. Students are required to contribute 100 hours of community service throughout their four years at the high school. The Committee could offer community service hours to work on these initiatives. There is an Arts Fair on May 24th and 25th. This might be an opportunity for the Committee to have some time with the students and get some discussion flowing. The Committee discussed that we seem to have run out of time for this school year, but would like to pursue this closer to September.

M. Allen mentioned that there are rumors concerning the inability of the transfer station to recycle. She would like to reach out to the communities to make sure they are aware that this is false and to encourage recycling by our citizenry. There was discussion about drafting a letter to the editor to the Weekly Packet and the Ellsworth American to discuss some of these issues and reach the communities.

There was a discussion around clarifying the transfer station closures to the new members on the committee. N. Nadeau explained that it is the TS Manager's (J. Emerson) call, then N. Nadeau would confirm his decision and then notification would be put out on the website, along with emails to various communities.

5. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 pm.