

**Blue Hill/Surry Transfer Station
Solid Waste Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 23, 2024
Minutes**

Called to Order – 4:30pm

Attendance/Quorum – M. Allen (Chair, S), T. Welgoss (S), S. Miller (BH), C. Stark (S), J. Wootten (BH), D. Soper (TS Manager), J. Atwell (Town Administrator) and M. Rockwell (Treasurer).

Approval of Minutes & Sending Town/Public Comments

1. **Approval of minutes of the May Meeting** – S. Miller moved to approve the May minutes; C. Stark seconded. Vote: 5/0 Approved.
2. **Sending Town Comment** – None
3. **Public Comment** – M. Allen congratulated D. Soper for the Ellsworth American article stating, “the reuse room is a pleasant place to visit.” D. Soper said that Lou Anne has been volunteering in the reuse room to keep it clean and organized. He thanked her. J. Dow also mentioned that he’s noticed a big change.

Business

1. **Transfer Station Manager Update** – Sliding gates have been installed and they are getting lots of good comments on them. WD Matthews forklift repair is waiting for parts. Eastern Mold Remediation demolished upstairs at the station. The insulation was covered in mold. Single sort is going to EcoMaine. The Committee wants to know, on a regular basis, if they are closed. They would like to know how much was diverted last year and reevaluate the cost versus the benefits of the program. Someone may be able to reach out to Mike Carroll at the MRC.
2. **Compacted Waste in Our Containers** – The new compactor struggles with larger loads and the compacted waste that the commercial haulers dump. There is concern on the wear and tear on the equipment and what is being compacted (such as metal and demo materials). J. Wootten asked why we didn’t order a bigger compactor. Josh Gray stated that the old compactor that was taken out was over 40 years old, so he doesn’t think the wear and tear from compacted trash is a real issue. He also stated that the metal and wood debris are in very small amounts. Moisture is also a big problem. Josh mentioned building a tool (the Trash Buster) that would be used to push down on the pile for under \$1,000 in materials and he would donate his labor. He will get a price list for next month. T. Welgoss asked if the Committee felt that we were equipped to take compacted waste. S. Miller thinks that we should accept the compacted waste as we’ve been accepting it for a long time already. There have also been breaker issues. E. Best suggested that an electrician should look at the panel. C. Stark asked how we keep metals out of compacted waste. Josh stated that he lets his customers know what is and what is not acceptable and removes as much as he can. He communicates via email, notes on invoices and face-to-face conversations.
3. **Recent MRC newsletter re Hampden facility** – July’s issue is recommended for viewing.

4. **Review of 2024 revenues/expenses** – M. Rockwell will reach out to Sedgwick to find out when they plan to pay their second quarter assessment.

Other Business

1. **Hayden Torrey Metal** – J. Atwell and D. Soper will work together and draft a proposal for Hayden Torrey.
2. **Staffing** – The Committee asked D. Soper how things were going. D. Soper mentioned that whenever someone calls out, he ends up working a lot of overtime. He needs to build up his part-time employees up, so he has more resources to pull from when employees call out. J. Atwell and D. Soper will work together to put the word out and recruit more employees.

Adjournment – M. Allen moved to adjourn at 5:25pm; S. Miller seconded. Vote: 5/0 Approved.