

MINUTES OF MEETING

A meeting of the **Ad Hoc Transfer Station Review Committee** was held in Meeting Room A of the CJH Municipal Center, 1 School St. Bethel, CT on February 4, 2016

Present: A.J. Bernard, Nick Ellis, Kitty Grant, B.J. Liberty, Kevin Sheehan, transfer station manager Mike Flanagan, ex-officio Selectman Paul Szatkowski

Absent: None

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by K. Grant.
Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Minutes of the December 3, 2015 meeting were approved with a motion by, N. Ellis, second by BJ Liberty in favor. K. Grant abstained.

Old Business:

Grants – M. Flanagan presented information on pending grants that would help pay for the replacement of the rusting receptacles at the Transfer Station.

Solar Farm – AJ Bernard entered the meeting at 6:40 and reported on the current status of the proposed Solar Farm at the Transfer Station. As of right now, this project cannot proceed due to state caps on the number of municipalities that participate in this program. Bethel is one of at least 11 towns that had plans for a Solar Farm which will be put on hold pending a change in the limitation. This also means that no A2 survey will be forthcoming from Ameresco, making it difficult for the committee to investigate other uses of the Transfer Station property.

New Business:

Discussion Regarding the Direction of Committee – Finding ways to make the Transfer Station a revenue positive activity is a priority. A second alternative to look into is to privatize the operation.

BJ Liberty read the recommendations from the 2011 report of the prior Ad Hoc Transfer Station Committee. Several suggestions had been put into place since then: 1) Information about the Transfer Station is on the Town of Bethel Website; 2) fees were raised in an effort to cover costs. Discussion followed about whether it would be more helpful to lower fees to encourage more utilization. There is also a real need to find other avenues of disseminating the information about the Transfer Station other than the town website.

Regarding privatization of garbage and recyclable pick-up, the previous committee had determined that having several large garbage trucks driving through the neighborhoods could impact the quality of life. P. Szatkowski introduced a proposal of dividing up the town into four sections. Haulers would have the opportunity to bid on each territory. The winning hauler would pay a fee to the town in return for having every household in that territory utilize their service. Management of fees would be handled by the PUC. This method would actually reduce the number of trucks traveling on any given road. A similar plan is successfully in place in Northern Connecticut.

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AJ Bernard made a motion to bring to town council the question of the legality of dividing the town into sections and awarding a "leasing agreements" for carting companies to have exclusive rights to that section of Bethel to haul garage and recyclables from residences. K. Sheehan seconded, all in favor. With a motion by N. Ellis and second by K. Grant, M. Flanagan was requested to get the RFP drafted, if and when council gave the go-ahead. All in favor.

Due to the unavailability of an A2 survey and the uncertainty of the future of a Solar Farm on the Transfer Station land, discussion of the leaf farm, inland wetland regulations, and food collection was tabled.

Public Awareness Campaign - AJ Bernard pointed out the need to get information out on electronic media. HRRR and the Transfer Station have lists of services that they provide. The Committee will need to determine what information should get out to the public and then invite media representatives in to suggest ways to attract attention to the services and inform the public of how to take advantage of them. M. Flanagan reported that the state is raising their recycling requirements every year and that Bethel is far below the standards. It is just a matter of time before fines begin to be imposed. The requirement to recycle and the importance of recycling for the future should be stressed.

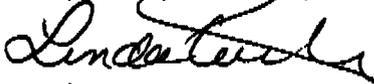
Other New Business:

M. Flanagan reported that due to the low price of recyclables in the current commodities market, the tipping fee at the Winter Brothers Transfer Station in Danbury is scheduled to increase from \$0/ton to \$25/ton as of March 1, 2016. However, HRRR was able to hold the fee for municipalities to \$10/ton through the end of the year.

N. Ellis made a motion to adjourn, seconded by K. Grant, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

The next meeting will be on March 2, 2016 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Curtis
Recording Secretary