

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 March 3, 2016

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

Absent: Kitty Grant

Guests: Paula Antolini of the Bethel Advocate

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

Minutes of the February 4, 2016 meeting were approved with a motion by N. Ellis, second by AJ Bernard, all in favor.

AJ Bernard made a motion to add an item to the agenda for discussion: Draft of the Connecticut Solid Waste Management Plan.

60% of solid waste needs to be diverted by 2024. Mandatory rules will be put into place for increasing organic recycling by 2018. Leaf composting is mandatory. Collectors must register with the town they operate in and reports to both the town and the state are required. Single stream recycling is resulting in contamination and decreased quality of some materials. All towns will need to have a plan for collecting street cleaning and catch basin debris to reduce risk to wetlands and public health. Lack of public awareness as to recycling requirements remains a challenge.

Ms. Antolini recommended several no cost or very low cost ways to disseminate information on the Transfer Station and recycling requirements. The Transfer Station should set-up a Facebooks page, You-Tube, accounts on the three Bethel forums, and also on Twitter. The latter could be used to send out notifications such as when the transfer station is closing early due to snow and other quick announcements. Other possibilities include a field trip for school children and partnering with local organizations to do joint events. M. Flanagan mentioned that parking is a problem so any event planning would have to take that into consideration.

Old Business:

Reports:

- M. Flanagan on advertising from HRRRA's Jen Ianucci: He presented a mock-up of a flyer for the committee's review. Upon comments by Ms. Antolini who mentioned that the Transfer Station is not easy to find, M. Flanagan was charged by AJ Bernard with getting a sign installed above the Public Works sign that is presently on Route 53.

- AJ Bernard on letter to Town Counsel and response

Martin Lawlor said that the Town has no authority to divide the Town up into districts to force garbage collectors to bid on collection and then force the residents to pay directly for the same. Both the garbage collectors and the residents have a right to choose who they contract with to have their garbage picked up. Any authority that the Town has must derive from the State Statutes or from the Connecticut Legislature.

He will however look into the possibility of charge residents for garbage pick-up through taxes of the Town as another type of service but this would be for the entire Town with all taxpayers contributing. This would require approval by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance with consultation with the Comptroller's office for the creation of a new line item in the budget. Problems, such as residents forgoing the use of the Town's hauler and hiring their own provider, would have to be addressed.

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- AJ Bernard on meeting with First Selectman

Mr. Knickerbocker agreed that leasing sections of towns to haulers was something to look into (Note: This meeting was prior to receiving the response from town council on this subject) but suggested first having an informal meeting with them before putting out a formal bid package. He also agreed to retry the electrical trenching proposal with the PUC commission. Nick Ellis will get the costs on this.

AJ Bernard requested a copy of the state trash permit to see just what it covers. They reviewed some new State requirements for more items being removed from garbage, which will also mean more problems with meeting the tonnage requirements of the HRRRA.

Mr. Knickerbocker reiterated his suggestion of eliminating the dump permit and will consult the town controller to get a new per pound price that would need to be charged. AJ Bernard recommended getting stickers to mark Bethel cars as being eligible to utilize the transfer station.

Regarding the A-2 Survey, AJ Bernard suggested it would not be forthcoming because of the solar farm problem but Mr. Knickerbocker thinks the solar farm still has a chance. If Connecticut does move forward but federal funds run out, it could be a problem.

They discussed food composting. Mr. Knickerbocker was unaware of this effort or of the food collection location in Germantown, but expressed interest. The public awareness campaign was also discussed and Mr. Knickerbocker indicated that he would get the information on the front page of the Bethel website.

- N. Ellis on trenching costs: The proposal he received for the estimated costs of trenching to install electric piping for the road to the Transfer Station came in at \$7568.00 (with an additional \$800-\$1000 if repaving is necessary). This is actually lower than the proposal gathered a few years ago.

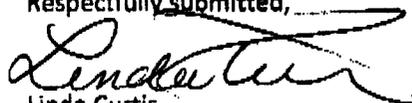
New Business

AJ Bernard asked N. Ellis to contact Bethel haulers to invite them to the next Transfer Station Committee meeting in April. All haulers are welcome to attend to discuss various options to help the town overcome the present deficit that the Transfer Station is operating under. Other items include the HRRRA requirements (the need for Bethel to get credit for the tonnage coming from the town), recycling, and reporting requirements.

AJ Bernard adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm

The next meeting will be on April 7, 2016 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Curtis

Recording Secretary