

**Town of Thompson
Transfer Station Advisory Committee
Minutes – Meeting of February 27, 2014**

The Transfer Station Advisory Committee held a Meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2014 in the Merrill Seney Community Room.

Those in attendance: Karen Durlach, Paul Horanzy, Al Landry, Lynn Landry, David Ostrowski, Anna Cwerwinska, Sylvie Hanshaw, William Birch—Facilities Manager, Thompson Public Schools, First Selectman Paul Lenky, Paul Baer.

Meeting Moderator: Karen volunteered to moderate the meeting and Lynn volunteered to record the minutes. Karen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approve Minutes of January 23, 2014: *Motion made by Al Landry, seconded by Karen Durlach, to accept the minutes of January 23, 2014 as presented. All in favor, motion carries.*

Changes to the Agenda: *Motion made by Lynn Landry, seconded by Karen Durlach, to add Citizens' Comments to the Agenda as item 7a. All in favor, motion carries.* Discussion on Motion: Citizens are encouraged to attend our meetings and to participate throughout the meeting.

Correspondence: Lynn had given written information to Mr. Lenky concerning planning the School Tour. Lynn had received an e-mail from the Town Clerk regarding cell phone recycling. We had a copy of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2014 where recycling was discussed.

Information from the Director of Public Works: None.

Public School Recycling and Trash Policy, Guest Bill Birch: Mr. Birch reviewed the history of the interface between the Town and School with regards to recycling and refuse. He stated that there would be significant capital expenditures. At this time, the Town takes the ferrous metals for recycling, and the school contracts with Willimantic Waste for trash removal and all other recycling. Paper and cardboard are segregated; plastic bottles and deposit containers are collected for various fundraising purposes. Classrooms and offices have separate bins for recycled paper/cardboard. Mr. Birch described the intensity of labor for the collection of the paper/cardboard. We discussed past efforts to inaugurate programs to ease the burden on the custodial staff by having student volunteers collect the recycled paper/cardboard. Anna noted that she has noticed compliance in paper recycling when she has substitute taught at the school. Mr. Birch distributed copies of the current contract that was signed for October 1, 2013. This contract had been put out to bid and is less costly than the previous contract. No money is received for recycling. Willimantic Waste offers to present an informational

program at the schools and to host a field trip to their facility. Anna reviewed the contract and had several astute comments including that Willimantic Waste has exclusive rights to recyclables other than metal and also that there is a clause to renegotiate the contract. She also suggested obtaining a benchmark before the start of any system change.

We discussed the need to recycle, the value of instilling civic pride and responsibility in our schoolchildren by having tasks in the classroom, the cost savings by recycling, and the goals of good citizenship and stewardship.

Mr. Lenky suggested having Willimantic Waste offer an incentive in the form of school program support. He also suggested changes to the physical plant that would facilitate recycling.

It was the consensus to pursue this subject at the next Board of Education meeting. We need a person, preferably in each of the three school divisions, who would be responsible for instituting and continuing a paper/cardboard recycling program. This could be a club mentor, a teacher or a staff member—science, civics, community service, etc. Lynn will contact the Board of Education to be put on the agenda. Mr. Birch will contact Willimantic Waste regarding container size and placement.

We thanked Mr. Birch for coming this evening to discuss our mutual goals.

Recycling, Education and Trash Reduction Effort: Mr. Lenky will ask his Staff to coordinate the Third Grade and St. Joseph Transfer Station Tour. There is a tentative date of April 22, 2014. Sylvie stated that the Third Graders are looking forward to the Tour and are recycling in their classrooms. We discussed membership and getting sworn in. Mr. Lenky will have the lock changed at the Transfer Station gate. We asked Mr. Lenky to put the cost of a security camera in the Transfer Station budget.

Citizens' Comments: Mr. Baer asked for a membership list so that he could put it on the Town website.

Set Next Meeting Date and Agenda: Thursday, March 27, 2014

Adjournment: *Motion made by Al Landry, seconded by Karen Durlach, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn Landry