

Town of Thompson
Transfer Station Advisory Committee

Regular Meeting, January 27, 2022 7 PM Merrill Seney Community Room

Those in attendance in person: Amy St. Onge, First Selectman; Rich Benoit, Director of Public Works; Paul Horanzy; Al Landry; Lynn Landry;

Those attending by Zoom Link: Linda Carli, Karen Durlach, David Ostrowski. The Agenda, 9-9-21 minutes, the Financial Report, information on FOIA workshops and recycling information were sent electronically to those participating by Zoom.

1. **Choose Meeting Moderator and Secretary** Motion by Al Landry, seconded by Lynn Landry, for Paul Horanzy to Moderate the meeting and Lynn Landry to record the minutes. All in favor, Motion carries. Paul called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. **Approve Minutes of September 9, 2021** Motion by Al Landry, seconded by Lynn Landry, to approve the September 9, 2021 minutes with a correction to paragraph 2 of Item 6, which should read "Out of State registrations". All in favor, motion carries.
3. **Changes to Agenda** None
4. **Correspondence** There will be two FOIA workshops, via ZOOM on February 10, 2022 at 6 PM and an in-person workshop March 22, 2022 at 6 PM in Town Hall. This information was given to those attending the meeting at the Seney Room and available electronically to those attending via Zoom.
5. **Financial Report** Rich gave a re-cap of the Financial Report submitted by Finance Director Orla McKiernan-Raftery. Income from recycling is currently up, but prices are beginning to drop. For example, Colored Plastic was around \$820 per ton in August 2021, and has dropped to \$480 to \$240 to \$132 over the last months. In August 2021, milk jugs were approximately \$1,800 per ton and are now at \$822 per ton. Our market does not recycle paper and we pay \$55-\$75 per ton to dispose. Cardboard is now at \$100 per ton, and is usually \$15-\$40 per ton. Operating the Transfer Station last fiscal year resulted in a smaller loss, but is sustainable. He predicts that this year will have the best monetary spread of cost versus income.
6. **Information from First Selectman** Amy stated that Budget Workshops will be held via Zoom on February 7, 9, 14 and 16. She encourages citizens to participate and also watch for upcoming ordinances on Open Space and redistricting of voting districts to go to Town Meeting.
7. **Information from Director of Public Works** Rich stated that the new signs are working well. Sorting of Colored plastics has improved with no rejected loads since September. The two current employees are very diligent. In Fall 2020, Rich approached the Board of Selectmen with a plan to sell surplus equipment and utilize those funds to make improvements at the Transfer Station. The equipment is aging and has been repaired many times. The auction was held and the funds brought in should be close to covering the purchase of two 40-yard containers. He is awaiting Board of Finance approval. Karen asked if support from the Transfer Station Advisory Committee is needed at a Board of Finance meeting and Rich will let us know if/when we are needed.
8. **Recycling, Education and Trash Reduction Effort.** We discussed the subject of a permit cost for 100% Disabled persons. Rich did not think this was needed and also stated that there appears to

be some abuse where people are picking up other people's trash. Bulky Waste is paying its way. He would not want a permit increase at this time. He is very concerned about out-of-state plates and wants the Tax Collector's Office to monitor registrations while issuing permits. Lynn stated that a policy would need to be set by the Board of Selectmen and included in all literature regarding the Transfer Station. Woodstock has a policy where newcomers with an out of town registration are issued up to five one day permits before they can obtain a Woodstock Permit when the vehicle is registered in Woodstock. David asked about the income from ferrous and non-ferrous metals. Rich said we are getting \$135 -\$145 per ton for #2 iron. Kelley Genest, his assistant, tracks all loads and Rich will get the specific information for David. David asked about truck repair costs. Rich stated that it varies, but in the last two years, the repair expense has been significant both for in-house and outsourced repairs. Al asked about the previous discussion of having a recycling education video. Rich wants to continue the upgrades at the Transfer Station and then make a video in the Spring. Rich will be adding a Book Bin, similar to the Planet Aid clothing bin. The book bin will redistribute books and recycle the remainder and we will receive payment based on weight. Karen asked if this would impact the Library Book sales. Linda stated that some books have no value to the Library and she thinks this is a great idea.

9. Citizens' Comments No citizens in attendance.

10. Comments from Committee Members Paul stated that the new signs are easy to read and that the Swap Shack is enjoyed by many residents. He asked Rich about the 6-bag limit and Rich stated this has been successful. Karen suggested starting to write the script for the educational video, and having children in the video. Amy suggested that this be a project or competition for the school.

11. Other Business None

12. Adjournment Al made a motion to adjourn at 8:17 PM and Lynn seconded. All in favor, motion carries.

13. Set next meeting date and agenda The next meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Landry