



## Thornton Transfer Station Action Committee (TSAC) - September 30, 2020 Meeting Minutes

- The meeting was conducted at the Thornton Town Hall on September 30, 2020 from 6:00 PM until 7:40 PM. Members were socially distanced in the room and wore masks.
- The meeting was also accessible via Zoom and one person called in. The meeting was also recorded.
- A packet of information was provided to in-person attendees. This included
  - September 22, 2020 email from Steve Chiocca, Subject: Advisory Committee Amended
  - TSAC Meeting Agenda
  - Ordinance # 20 Recycling and Use of Recycling / Transfer Center for the Town of Ashland, NH
  - Photo of customer bringing in a truckload of construction debris
- The meeting started with self introductions. Present in the meeting were:
  - Steve Chiocca - Thornton - (Manager of the Transfer Station) is an advisor for the Committee
  - Roy Sanborn – Thornton -(Board of Selectmen), ran the meeting
  - Joan Marshall – Thornton – (has experience managing dump/transfer stations)
  - Zack Simon – Thornton (Assistant Manager of the Transfer Station)
  - Peter Laufenberg – Thornton (Town Planning experience)
  - Julie Piehn – Thornton (**Former owner of Gilcrest Cottages**, also experience with education)
  - Mike O'Brien – Ellsworth (Board of Selectmen, also experience with food & beverages services)
  - Candy Andrews – Thornton (Educator)
  - Bob McCabe – Campton (Woods' Hole Scientist, also rents his house periodically)
  - Steven Taves – Ellsworth (Board of Selectmen, also construction experience)
  - Dan Boynton – Campton (Board of Selectmen, also experience with Telecom Business & vegetable farming)
  - Mark Casale – Campton (PSU and construction experience)
  - Myrtle Lewis – Thornton (Conservation Commission & environmental experience)
  - Bill DeLeo – Thornton (Capital Planning Board and information technology experience)
- The following items were discussed:
  - The Transfer Station is for the use of Thornton, Campton and Ellsworth, for residential use.
  - The Transfer Station needs written policies for operation for enforcement and notification. A Transfer Station Operation Ordinance that will be approved by the three Towns' BOS's.
  - We will need a communication plan to roll out all these changes (via Town emails, Town websites, etc.)
  - These issues, as outlined in the September 22 email:
    - Children and safety at the facility
      - Safety is the highest priority. Need an age limit or other rule for keeping kids safe
    - Misuse of the facility



- The Transfer Station is meant for residential and not for businesses or construction wastes. Need an Ordinance for enforcement of wastes that are not accepted, to prevent illegal dumping (after hours), and need an appeals process.
- Commercial use of the facility
  - The trash compactor dumpster is empty on Saturday morning. If too much waste comes in (particularly from business or construction) and it gets full, they have to shut down the Transfer Station for the weekend.
  - Further, when the construction dumpster is full, it can take several days to get it emptied.
- Volume reduction of Municipal Solid Waste (MSC – household trash)
  - We need to encourage residents to reduce trash generation and to recycle more.
  - The Littleton Transfer Station is similar to the Thornton Transfer Station (both have about 7,000 residents). Thornton generates more than twice the quantity of MSW that Littleton does.
  - The current landfill used, is at risk of closing. If this happens, transportation costs (20%) will increase and overall costs will as well.
  - Littleton uses Pay as You Throw (PATW) for their Transfer Station. Residents have to buy specific bags for trash disposal. It is equitable and keeps costs down.
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- Transfer Station stickers and enforcement
  - The last ten years, Thornton has not enforced stickers at the Transfer Station. Now, Transfer Station staff members are asking customers when they don't see a sticker. The waste generation has been reduced by 8% as a result of this.
- Hours of operation
  - The Transfer Station is open 4 days per week and on Saturday and Sunday. Most local Transfer Stations are not open Wednesdays and we may be getting other community's wastes.
- The Thornton Mall
  - There are no plans to reopen the "Mall", due to manpower and operational issues. There are other places to get rid of useable household items.
- Other Topics
  - A Transfer Station scale costs about \$60K, but may be a good idea, depending on ROI.
  - Field trips may be a good idea, to look at well run Transfer Stations.
  - One way to help the bottom line is to provide more onsite services, such as removing Freon and disassembling equipment and generating revenue for disposal of equipment
- Committee Position Appointments



- Chairperson: Peter Laufenberg
- Vice Chairperson: Mark Casale
- Secretary: Myrtle Lewis
- Next Actions
  - Peter will work with Steve to prioritize goals and set up subcommittees
- Next Meeting
  - In two weeks: October 14 at 6 PM at Thornton Town Hall