

**Town of Thompson  
Transfer Station Advisory Committee**

**Minutes – Special Meeting of November 15, 2017**

The Transfer Station Advisory Committee held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at the Thompson Middle School Media Center.

**Those in attendance:** Karen Durlach; Paul Horanzy; Al Landry; Lynn Landry; David Ostrowski; Bill Birch, School Facilities Manager; Melinda Smith, Thompson Public School Superintendent.

**Meeting Moderator:** Karen volunteered to moderate the meeting and called the meeting to order at 4:40. Lynn volunteered to record the minutes.

**Approve Minutes:** *Motion made by Al Landry, seconded by Karen Durlach, to accept the August 24, 2017 Minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carries.*

**Public School Recycling:** We reviewed the history of our committee’s attempts to facilitate recycling at the school, including various programs that were started and abandoned, the Third Grade Tour of the Transfer Station, and when the Town experimentally handled some of the recycling in 2008.

Bill Birch reviewed how the system currently works and aspects of the current contract with Willimantic Waste, which is a single stream system. Capital costs, time management and student commitment are issues. There are recycling containers for classrooms and offices. Deposit cans/bottles are collected for Project Graduation. At this time, Willimantic Waste takes material three times each week from 4 locations in the school complex. There is also a cardboard/paper haul from three locations once per week, of which two are 6 yard and one is an 8 yard container. Metal and food containers are kept in a separate container for the town to recycle. He spoke of the “educational return on investment” and how people believe in the theory of recycling, but accomplishing the goals becomes an issue.

Melinda Smith was given copies of our past correspondence with the Board of Education and copies of mandated CT recycling information. She reviewed her past experience in another school district with successfully instituting recycling. She will assess each of the three schools for bins and equipment, talk to the three principals to know what is happening now, will address the need to re-educate for proper sorting, will look at the Willimantic Waste contract, and will see how the cafeterias handle food waste. The first step is to be sure all paper and cardboard are recycled, and then to have a bigger conversation on recycling other items. She will meet again with this committee.

**Citizens’ Comments:** None.

**Comments from Committee Members:** Karen reviewed the August discussion and suggested we contact Mr. Beausoleil for an update. We discussed the need to review

Permit prices. Paul noted that there is not a paper compacter at the Transfer Station and questioned why the school would need one.

**Adjournment:** *Motion made by Al Landry, seconded by Lynn Landry, to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m. All in favor, motion carries.* The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2018, 7 PM, Merrill Seney Community Room, Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lynn Landry