

MINUTES
Transfer Station Public Hearing
September 20, 2021

The Campton Board of Selectmen met at 5:00 pm at the Campton Municipal Building on Monday, September 20, 2021. Selectmen Sharon Davis, Karl Kelly, Dan Boynton, and Bill Cheney were present. Thornton Board of Selectmen Peter Laufenberg, Brad Benton, Marianne Peabody, and Roy Sabourn were present. Ellsworth Board of Selectmen present, Mike O'Brien and Steve Taves. Also present were Campton Town Administrator Carina Park, Thornton Town Administrator Debra Shepard, Ellsworth Town Administrator Donna O'Brien, Minutes Recorder Jade Hartsgrove, and Transfer Station Manager Steve Chiocca.

Call to Order: Thornton Selectman and Chairman of the Transfer Station Committee, Peter Laufenberg, opened the meeting at 5:00 pm. Mr. Laufenberg explained that this is not a forum for day-to-day operations. This is strictly for solicitation on the proposed ordinance. This is the first of two hearings, and the second will be September 29, 2021, at 5:00 pm at the Thornton Town Hall, 16 Merrill Access Rd. He also explained for those on zoom to use the chat to ask a question or if they would like to speak.

Mr. Laufenberg explained a brief history of the transfer station committee and how much time and work was put into the proposed ordinance. He wants to go through the ordinance as it is written. Peter asked that people stay on topic and be respectful. What is written in the proposed ordinance is not written in stone. This proposed ordinance is furtherance of being mandatory recycling.

White/Clear Bag Policy: Mr. Laufenberg went over the first three bullet points, purpose, waste disposal, and definitions/responsibilities. The next section is facility rules and regulations. There was a considerable discussion on the potential requirement to use white and/or clear trash bags. The strict use of white and/or clear bags is supposed to take effect on January 1, 2022. Mr. Laufenberg said this date would likely be extended. Multiple citizens voiced both concerns and support. Transfer Station Manager Steve Chiocca explained that the use of white and clear bags would help the attendants identify if residents are complying with the recycling requirement and eliminate the number of black construction bags thrown into the hopper.

A Thornton resident stated that the proposed ordinance is not in conjunction with the Town's NH DES permit. After the hearings and revisions to this ordinance, Mr. Laufenberg explained that they would run it by NHDES before the ordinance was moved to a vote. The resident also expressed that he thought the ordinance created a class system by eliminating certain user groups from using the facility. Mr. Laufenberg ensured that before the ordinance's adoption, it would be vetted by the attorneys for all three towns.

Mr. Laufenberg asked for a show of hands to support the white/clear bag requirement. The results were 60% nay and 40% yay.

Recycling: Mr. Laufenberg informed those who didn't know that the transfer station became a mandatory recycling facility in 1991. There were many questions and comments on this topic. Many people asked why the transfer station is not taking paper as the paper is a large part of waste? Steve Chiocca explained that there has to be a market for the paper. Right now, paper is not selling, but cardboard is.

Furthermore, there is no room to store it, as the paper and cardboard must be clean and dry. Several people voiced their concerns about the recycled paper and encouraged the towns to begin the recycling stream again. Selectman Boynton brought up business recycling and how he would like businesses to come and recycle. Steve Chiocca said he has no problem if companies bring their recyclables to the facility.

Contractors and Commercial: Contractor permits will be available for a non-refundable fee for each job or project. This permit is only valid for waste generated within Campton, Ellsworth, and Thornton and is only valid for 30 days from the date of issuance. Effective January 1, 2023, contractors will no longer be permitted to use the facility unless extended. There will be a six-month or twelve-month permit for purchase to use the facility for commercial haulers. All waste must be from residential properties located in Campton, Ellsworth, or Thornton. Discussion ensued regarding small property management companies and whether they would be charged a fee for minor renovations such as a replacement window or a single sheet of sheetrock.

Businesses: Business owners can purchase a permit to use the facility. Effective January 1, 2023, business waste will no longer be accepted, though they will still take business recycling. A business owner in Campton told Steve Chiocca that she had been told not to bring her cardboard there. Mr. Chiocca ensured her that it would be communicated to the staff that business recycling was acceptable. A question arose to the fee's purpose and whether it was to deter business owners from going there? Steve Chiocca explained that ultimately, yes, they either pay a fee to the Town or get a dumpster.

Hours: Mr. Laufenberg explained that the hours are not part of the ordinance, although he would allow time for discussion at the end of the meeting. A Thornton resident stated that in 2002 the citizens of the communities asked for the hours on Sundays to be increased, demonstrating the want and need for Sunday hours. He is asking for Sunday hours to be returned. Several residents voiced their concerns about the facility being closed Friday, Sunday, and Monday. Steve Chiocca explained that the main reason was a capacity issue.

Mr. Laufenberg asked for a show of hands to support the current hours. The results were 40% nay and 60% yay.

Adjourn: Mr. Laufenberg ended the meeting by reiterating that the ordinance is not set in stone and thanked everyone for coming and participating. He stated that on the 29th, at 5 pm, there will be another public hearing at the Thornton Town Hall. The room is much smaller there, so if people were more comfortable, a zoom would be an option to attend the hearing as well. There being no further business, Mr. Laufenberg adjourned the public meeting at 6:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jade Hartsgrove
Minutes Recorder