

Groton Recycling Committee Meeting
Groton Transfer Station
Wednesday, July 29th at 5:30-6:30 pm

Present: Val Prest, Jamie King, Nancy Ohringer, Diana Keaney, Tessa David, Transfer Station foreman Keith Burchett

Meeting came to order at 7:40

Welcome, wear mask and maintain 6 feet apart.

Diana shared an article from the Groton Herald regarding the opening of the Groton Visitor Center and what educational material we should ask them to have. The Transfer Station map for sure and we'll discuss further at a future meeting.

Keith shared the biggest issues they are having with the current Transfer Station operations.

Recycling materials not being properly sorted, which reduces or eliminates and funds the recipient vendors will pay for the material.

1. The biggest problem is with the bay for #2 colored plastics. Too many #3-7 are ending up here and if not removed will cost the town money. Keith has created a whiteboard sign on wheels at ground level listing what does *not* belong in this bay and the decision was reached to create a pictorial sign of items that don't belong. For the short term this would be placed over the current sign to see if it improves the sorting. If it works, a professional sign will be created to go on the wall(s) of the bay. A larger sign may be created for more over-all education at another location, to be discussed in the future.
2. Committee will work on ideas for 'pop-up' signs with helpful tips/reminders, to be placed along the road in front of the Transfer Station, to educate station users.
3. Small items like medicine bottles are a problem for the sorting machines but we did not come to any conclusion about what to do about this issue.
4. Items not being rinsed out is also an issue as buyers are getting pickier about what they will accept. This may be a good item to put on a 'pop up' sign.

Users of the Transfer Station don't adhere stickers in required location (left bottom of windshield). The staff will be cracking down on this as it wastes the staffs time having to locate where someone has placed a vehicle's sticker and in the future they will be denied access until they comply.

Keith has gotten permission to move the construction debris area closer to the office so more monitoring can be done, as users are using this area without paying the proper fees. It is just a matter of having the time to build up the cement foundation where this will be moved to.

Keith mentioned a long-term goal is for a larger parking lot and a revamp of the entire station for a more efficient flow and to help eliminate, especially on Saturday, overcrowding.

Keith will be retiring in approximately 7 years and the other 2 staff members have no interest in taking on his responsibilities. This may be something the committee would help with finding someone who would be interested when the time comes.

Prior meeting minutes from 2/13/20 approved without changes.

Adjourn 6:40

No next meeting scheduled due to COVID-19 restrictions with meeting.