

TOWN OF LYME
CHARGE
TRANSFER STATION STUDY COMMITTEE

Summary:

The Transfer Station Study Committee was established to review and recommend long-term alternatives for meeting the Town's solid waste and recycling needs.

Background:

The Town Transfer Station is located at 26 High Street on part of 4.1 acres of a 10 acre parcel it shares with the Highland Cemetery and highway garage. Currently it is open on Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 11:00 AM and Wednesdays from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. There is a compactor available for household trash; dumpsters are available for materials which are recycled including: aluminum, cardboard, glass, paper, plastic, scrap metal and tires.

During 2000 and 2001 a citizens committee studied rebuilding the highway garage and transfer station. Articles to issue bonds for these projects were either defeated or passed over at the 2002 Town Meeting. Appropriations of \$20,000 were approved (both in 2002 and 2003) for the engineering and design of the facilities, but no contractor was hired nor progress made during 2002.

The Transfer Station has been operating from 2003 until the present time (2016) as a pay-as-you-go set up. Trash bags and punch cards are sold in the Town Office and at 2 other locations within this town. Until 2015 any person who purchased the bags and or punch cards could bring their solid waste and recyclables to our station. At the time of this revision, recycling has bottomed out. As a result, the Town of Lyme is now paying to dispose of all forms of recycling creating a significant and necessary change in the program. In 2015 the Select Board voted to allow Lyme Residents only to use the recycling center in an effort to control and lower the overhead costs.

The 2015 Transfer Station Study Committee determined, with the assistance of NRRA that there should not be a change in recycling procedure because of the instability of the costs associated with recycled material. NRRA recommended the Town stay with the present plan and not commit to any long term contract in the immediate future.

They also recommended searching for a larger and permanent location for the Transfer Station. (See final report from committee).

The 2016 Transfer Station Study Committee will continue to analyze operations, make relevant recommendations based on research regarding the possible re-location of the Transfer Station, necessary equipment upgrades, new recycling avenues and ways in which the Transfer Station can save in the cost of recycling.

Membership:

April 14, 2016

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The Transfer Station Study Committee shall consist of not less than five or more than nine members appointed by the Board of Selectmen. It shall include one selectman as an ex officio member.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The Committee shall:

- a. Elect its own chair and establish its own organization, including establishment of any sub-committees necessary for specific functions, e.g. public information, land use regulation (site plan review and zoning) and/or finance.
- b. Throughout its investigations coordinate with the necessary committees and departments in town.
- c. Examine the short-term and long-term solid waste and recycling needs of the Town.
- d. Examine alternatives for the materials collected/recycled and methods of collection (Town owned transfer station, “curbside” collection, commercial contractor, etc.) and approximate costs for the various alternatives.
- e. For the Town owned transfer station alternative determine the space and facility needs and availability of a suitable site (land) for its potential construction.
- f. Investigate other recommendations found in the 2015 Transfer Station Study Committee’s report.
- g. Conduct public meetings/hearings as appropriate.
- h. Regularly report progress and submit a final report to the Select Board by 30 November 2016.

Susan J. MacKenzie

Patricia G. Jenks

Charles J. Smith