

**MEETING
By ZOOM**

April 30, 2020

The following directors were present: John Shepard, Norman Casas, Elaine Porter (by phone), Dana Philippi, Peter Beckett, Don Thebeau, Charlotte Henderson and Tom Pitzi (new Union Board member). Also present were David Stanley, Facility Manager, and Gail Philippi, Administrative Assistant.

John Shepard, President opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

John went over some procedural protocols; everyone please raise your hand and wait for the 3 second delay in response by Zoom. John introduced Tom Pitzi the new Union Board member.

Tom is taking Jim Bailey's place; Jim is moving to the alternate position and Lyle Cramer is leaving the Board.

Tom Pitzi introduced himself, he moved here four years ago and bought the Rowan Tree Farm, now The David Robbins Homestead, his wife is running it, and he runs a plastics business for BASF; involving biodegradable plastics. They are looking at waste diversions and trends in Maine, the US and Canada. Tom has a mechanical engineering background.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: A motion was made by Dana Philippi and seconded by Don Thebeau to accept the minutes of the January 23, 2020 meeting. No comments or questions. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The checking account balance as of today is \$184,963.31. The Reserve Account balance is \$75,543.87 and the 13-month CD is \$51,072.20. Don Thebeau made a motion and Norman Casas seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Gail clarified payments of the quarterly Town Assessments; two Towns paid after April 1 and are not shown in the First Quarter report. David clarified that the line for moving the trailer is for Gordon Libby to move the trailer for repairs or if ecomaine is closed they'll come and swap out the trailers when the Station is closed. This happens in the winter more, as they put the trailer in the shed so that the load doesn't freeze. David would rather have this item in a maintenance line rather than transportation. We will move it to the maintenance line. Motion carried.

The CPU rebate on P&L is given by Northcoast as credit. David explained that our electronics line never shows a loss, the mystery of Northcoast was that the credit was sometimes almost to the penny of what we owed. North Coast has eliminated the credit. We do charge for some things that cover costs. Plowing is paid in two halves, fall and spring.

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Norman was speaking with the Washington selectmen regarding Donnie Hannon, Wesley was wondering if we were going to compensate Don because he can't come into work because of a doctor's report. The Town of Washington is picking up lost wages for several employees who can't come in because of pandemic reasons. John said Don is an hourly employee, David agrees and stated that our Personnel Policy has no provision for that, David has talked with Don, and assured him that he can return to work. We have hired a temporary replacement for Don so are out of pocket for that. Wesley mentioned employee retention, is there a chance we couldn't have him back? David has made a commitment to Don as recently as last night that we'd have him back as soon as the coast is clear. Norman wondered if Don would go somewhere else and David said any employee could leave anytime, there is no more commitment to us than usual because of COVID 19. John mentioned that we don't have contracts.

Dana reported being asked by Liberty residents if recycling was being taken in as they had heard that it wasn't.

John mentioned talking about speed limits at the Station during the last meeting, he received a comment

about a woman who was almost hit. He thought that there should be a limit of 20 mph. Dana said it should be 5 or 10 mph. Since the last meeting David has checked into a grant for a sign, he would not recommend a very high speed limit. He's also considered speed bumps though Dana and David were not in favor of speed bumps. Peter noted that you can paint lines along the side of the road to create the illusion of narrowing the road or paint a "speed bump" across the roadway. Appleton did this at their school on the advice of DOT.

John recommended doing one or two signs for now. Norman would like to make an amendment that we have 15 mph on the entrance road and 5mph within the facility. David said, consider it done, no need for a vote, as it's in the budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tom has no comment, he's listening and learning.

NEW BUSINESS:

FACILITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

David thanked Peter for setting up the Zoom meeting although he had worked out a way to meet and was kind of excited to set up in the trash building, there are 13 chairs, an antique table and a floor lamp. Some good news is that Terri & Kevin the new employees are fitting in well. Terri has taken up most of work done by Don and he will remain as a permanent Saturday employee after we return to normal. Kevin fills in Wed. and Fri. during Terri and David's time away spent driving meals on wheels for students. David feels good about having motivated employees and maximum flexibility. We have people who would work more, and we are well covered. Everyone is universally trained and works well with customers. The Station is deemed an essential service. David initially gave cards to everyone to carry as proof that they are working for an essential service.

We have no idea of the timeline of the duration. There are some customers who mock those wearing masks and gloves. The crew do all practice social distancing and had hand sanitizer and gloves anyway. There is no more free pile to pick through or hard plastic this spring, causing less possibly infectious material to be handled. Access to the office and scale house is limited to employees only. They give extremely limited physical assistance in order to keep distances but do help with heavy items. They crew will do it without customer help and have the customer stay in their car. David consulted with the CDC and they feel we are okay.

David stated that the **Annual Household Hazardous Waste Day** will be held Sat. June 20th from 8:30 – 11 am. It is always the third Saturday in June. We subsidize it and the fee for users is still \$10/unit. David is committed to making HHW Day happen, customers stay in their cars and the workers wear PPE anyway, this is a once a year event, and he would not want to have those items thrown in the regular trash.

Regarding Dana's comment, they are still taking **recycling**. MCSW was quite public about not doing that. David is very glad to encourage recycling. It would be a real issue if we closed it down. We are also receiving some Augusta demo as Hatch Hill is closed. We implement a higher non-resident fee. With more people being home, many people are doing "archaeological dig activity" according to David and bringing in a lot of metal and demo too.

Wood Lot – The income from the harvest is under Revenue at the end of the Quarterly Report, we received \$8,361.98 and in April have received an additional \$1,378.99 for a total of \$9,740.97. The work is not complete. They are working with the weather. The piece off Bump Hill Rd. is not accessible now. David went up to take a look with Ed. The documentation supplied with their checks is comprehensive. David asked Gail to keep the revenue separate, it is like found money.

Trailer – David contacted Warren Equipment and has not yet heard back. Our trailers are relatively trouble free other than frozen lines. Terri is mechanically inclined, and David is not worried about getting the trailer immediately. He is sure Warren Trailer has been affected by the pandemic and, we don't pay for it until we have the trailer.

Recycling ~ The longer David works in this area he has more appreciation for the waste. He would like to present a more comprehensive example of what we recycle. We had quite an increase in **metal**; 27.93 tons. Walt is also taking couches apart and pulling out the metal for example. We do not yet have a contract with **Lincoln County**. David knows it will happen and we owe them nothing until we do get a contract. Their communication is great; they've also had some employees out as has Gordon Libby. David will create a **list of all the items** we recycle and how much of it and send the list to the Board. He listed many of the items with amounts and weights. Some are: batteries -we shipped 214 lbs. of rechargeable batteries last year (double the year before), TVs, computers, battery backups. Some things are taken for free; some are charged for. A relatively small amount (18%) of what comes into the Station ends up not being recycled.

We don't recycle some items, and there may be a possibility to recycle other things.

Kevin has done some site cleanup before we mow, and it is looking nice. There is a new door on the trash building and a new door and window plus heat in the scale house. We had a good winter keeping the scale open and never had to shut it down.

There were a few days with no power this winter and spring. In the summer it is not an issue. Walt brought in a generator during the recent 3-day power failure. David is looking into acquiring a generator for the station. We can't run the scales without power. Often power comes back on last at the Station too. Dana asked about estimating on shingles and David stated that they won't estimate on shingles or sheetrock. It is too difficult to be accurate.

Peter asked about when the **audit** happens, Gail explained that it is usually in June. With all the changes involving tax due dates, she will check with the auditor on what to expect.

Trailer -Peter asked about discussing paying for the trailer. David would rather talk about it tonight as we would take delivery of the trailer when it is ready.

We need \$87,665. We discussed options of taking the money out of the Reserve Account or the CD and checking account.

Gail suggested using the CD which is rolling over in mid-May (the interest rate is most likely going to drop) and take rest out of the Reserve account. The trailer was originally to be ready in late May or June.

Peter made a motion and Charlotte seconded that when the CD matures in May, we put the money into the checking account, use that amount for the trailer and pay the balance from the Reserve Account. All in favor.

John likes the idea of more comprehensive recycling info and Norman seconds that and thanked David. Peter can update the recycling section on the website which doesn't currently mention batteries. David would like to look into recycling ink cartridges, and he has a mercury thermostat program that picks them up. This is responsible recycling. He says people are funny: who cares a lot and who doesn't care at all.

At the July meeting we will have the election of officers. John asked everyone to be thinking about this. Jim Bailey will no longer be our Secretary.

OLD BUSINESS: The trailer and woodlot have been discussed. Peter is amazed at how much money we've received. David said there will be a considerable amount yet to come. David says he doesn't know the final figure and Ed Blake might not either. There is one load ready to be hauled out off the Stone Road. It's clean and well done. When they pull out of the wood yard, they'll close it off with stones to keep vehicles out. David would like to keep the woodlot income separate and reminded us that Peter had suggested using it for equipment replacement or major repairs. David wants to do something productive with it. Peter will update his spreadsheet for the next meeting.

The Quarterly Financial reports were previously emailed to all members who have email and copies mailed to those without email.

Norman said this meeting worked.

The next meeting is on July 30th at the Union Town Office (or maybe Zoom).

Dana Philippi made a motion and Peter Beckett seconded to adjourn at 8:28 pm.

Submitted by, Gail Philippi, Administrative Assistant

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