

Addendum 2 for June 19, 2023 Meeting

Sustainability Committee – Information shared by Jay Twardosky, DPW Director – June 2023

Current options and Future plans for the Hudson Transfer Station:

"Swap Shop"/Take and Give area

Composting

Goals to reduce quantity of materials going into landfills.

Currently the Hudson Transfer Station has that label only because it is required to by the State of NH.

It does not yet function as a Transfer Station such as those in many towns in NH.

The site is not set up to accept payments or issue Transfer Station passes (three per household/address per year).

There is no unused indoor - lockable space.

It is only open two Saturday mornings a month to accept bulky items. Staffed just to meet the authorized activities on those two mornings – 8:00am-12:00noon.

The other Saturday mornings only Yard Waste, Cardboard and items made mostly of metal can be dropped off in specific areas/dumpsters. No Pass required. Staffing on these Saturdays is very minimal.

Additional information not yet posted on Town Website:

Lumber (no nails, no screws) and tree limbs and trunks more than 4” in diameter are separated and piled on site. Access to this lumber (for use in projects, wood stoves or fire pits, etc.) is by prior appointment with the DPW.

Some of the Yard Waste, that has composted naturally on site, is mixed with soil and used on town properties in lieu of buying bark mulch - saving money. Future goal – to increase this aspect of the Transfer Station operations to meet all Town needs in maintaining town lands and the produce gardens at Alvirne --- and possibly make available to residents.

All matter/items that are put into the general dumpsters at the Transfer Station is processed at a recycling center. All that can be sold or at least accepted at no fee or less than Town is currently being charged per ton as waste is removed from the waste stream. All organic matter is ground up and used as cover on landfills. Such operations are Not handled by the Town of Hudson.

Composting on a Town level is not as easy, simple as one might think. Any formal operation must adhere to strict guidelines – only acceptable matter, matter needs to be processed and actively managed to assure that all viruses, salmonella, listeria, and any other organisms that could cause illness are killed – compost pile must reach specific temperature for a certain period of time. No access by animals.

"Swap Shop"/Take and Give area – lockable building/structure – like a shipping container is required. In order to be successful the building must be manned during all open hours and those manning the area must make all decisions as to what is accepted and what is turned away. E-Waste can not be accepted and without electricity and access to Comcast...there is no way of knowing if an item requiring electricity or a TV, etc. is still in full working order. There is no provision in the DPW budget for staffing such a "Swap Shop." Another consideration – the few number of hours a month the Transfer Station is open.

*Many ideas for reducing the amount of material that goes into the dumpsters requires Storage Area. Storage is simply not available at the Transfer Station or the DPW.

Goals for the future- To expand the operations at the current site to enable the Transfer Station to financially support itself. A step towards this goal is to offer other towns the ability to bring material in for processing by equipment at the Hudson site for fees per ton and or type of material. Discussions regarding the installation of a Weigh Station have begun as well as the securing of a machine to process Styrofoam (specific types) into ingots that there is a ready market for. Gilford NH already coordinates with 5 towns regarding the processing of Styrofoam to keep it out of the waste stream – saving each town money on the trash contracts.

The Future: It is only a matter of time before significant changes in the processing of trash and recyclables will be mandated by the State. This is already occurring in other states. The Sustainability Committee will have a role to play in getting information out to all residents and businesses.