

TRANSFER STATION ACTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

January 8, 2026

8:30 am

Heald Room, Town Hall, 66 Westford Street
and by Zoom

In attendance at Town Hall: Tom Bilotta, Dan Scholten, Ben Sherry (Vice Chair),
Laura Snowdon (Chair), Barney Arnold (Select Board liaison to TSAC)

In attendance by Zoom: John Petrie

Meeting called to order by Laura Snowdon at 8:35 am.

- I. **Future meetings** [on Thursdays, 8:30 am]: Feb. 12, March 5, April 16.
- II. Committee members' contact info was confirmed.
- III. **Black Earth compost bins**
The bins have been overflowing the last month. Tom will contact Jim Hall (DPW) to ask Black Earth to provide us with a 7th and 8th bin. These will be used only if needed, otherwise they will be turned upside down, so that we will only pay Black Earth if they are used.
- IV. **Organic waste ban**
TSAC is proposing a "soft ban" on food scraps in the solid waste bin at the Transfer Station (TS) to promote increased diversion of organics to composting bins (at home, at the TS, or by curbside pickup) as a way to reduce the town's solid waste tonnage. The TS will not enforce the ban, but having a ban will increase publicity on the issue. The town of Hamilton has implemented such a ban. We will present our proposal to the Select Board (SB) at their 2nd meeting in February. A PPT briefing will be put together (Ben). This will be a joint effort with the Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) (John, Tom). Before the SB meeting, we will ask for buy-in from other relevant town committees: e.g., Land Stewardship Committee (LSC) (Laura), Conservation Commission (Laura), Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)?
Julia Green from DEP is no longer our contact person, but might be available to assist. Sarah Wasserman, Carlisle Sustainability Coordinator, can also advise (John). We plan to hold a public meeting in March to get town input. Townwide publicity on the ban will be coordinated by Laura.
TSAC voted unanimously that "The TSAC recommends to the Select Board a ban on organic waste in the solid waste trash bins at the Transfer Station".
- V. Tom moved to accept the minutes of the November 20 meeting, seconded by Ben. Passed unanimously without discussion.
- VI. Dan presented solid waste numbers for 2025. Our trash tonnage has been down about 3% each of the last 3 years, to 1517 tons -- a good sign. However, there seems

to be a small increase over the last 6 months. The recycling rate was up slightly last year to 34.7% -- more good news. It has been fairly steady at almost 35% for the last 5 years.

- VII. Changing our name from *Transfer Station Action Committee* to *Transfer Station Advisory Committee*: This could be more accurate because of our advisory role to the town. However, we also perform many actions: upgrading the Transfer Station signage, selling stickers, promoting recycling in town, etc. The consensus seemed to be to leave the name unchanged for now.
- VIII. Summer survey responses: Ben will update us when results are in.
- IX. Results on email to home composter recipients to elicit interest in becoming TSAC members (Ben): Emails were sent out, and responses are being analyzed.
- X. **New resident welcome/starter kit**: new residents will be sent a kitchen compost bucket and bags, and recycling information.
- XI. **Carlisle School activities**: we will collaborate to try to restart the school's student composting program, and to promote sustainability in the curriculum.
- XII. **Transfer Station updates** (Tom): Tom will be on the DPW Building Committee, which is on a fast track to rebuild the DPW next year. We will want to do a wetlands study this year to be able to expand the TS.
- XIII. **2025 TSAC Annual Report** (due Jan. 30): Laura has drafted the report, which looks good so far. We will present it to the SB when we meet with them their 2nd meeting in February to discuss the organic waste ban.
- XIV. **Outreach fairs**: We will have an informational table at the annual *Spring on the Wing* seed swap event sponsored by the Garden Club on Sat. March 28 (3-5 pm) (Dan will contact Gio DeNicola), and also the *Route to Sustainability Day (RTSD)* event on Sun. May 3 (1-4 pm).

Meeting Adjourned at 10:35 am.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Scholten