

**TOWN OF ASHLAND**  
**WASTE TO ENERGY COMMITTEE (WTE)**  
**COMMITTEE FORMATION AND MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 5:00 PM**  
**UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM 6 COLLINS STREET**

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chairperson Alan Cilley called the meeting to order at 5:05pm. In attendance were Alan Cilley, Craig Moore, William Hess, Bonnie Bethune, Harry Gallien, and Mike Myshrall. Also in attendance was Fred Welch, Town Manager. Charlie Bozzello arrived at 5:40 pm.

**MOTION:** Alan Cilley

*To accept minutes from the 9/28/23 and 10/04/23 WTE Committee meetings as presented.*

**SECOND:** *Harry Gallien*

**VOTE:** 5-0

**II.** Jeremy Smith of Waldron joined the meeting via Teams and presented Site #2 which is off 93 N Exit 24 and left on Rt. 3 north towards Plymouth.

The following items were discussed at length:

- Best access to Site #2 from Rt. 3N?  
Fred Welch looking into if town owns Cedar Lane
- Access to Site # 2 over the railroad bed:
  - Does the Town own a right-of-way along or over the railroad bed?
  - If is State-owned, would the State give, sell or lease the Town right-of-way?
  - It was determined that the Committee would need assistance to determine best access.
- Cell tower placement alternative on stack to current location on Site #2
- Topography study would need to be done to determine facility location at Site #2 and the stack height.
- Existing substation repair at original site, or new substation at Site #2?
  - If current substation was upgraded, the electricity the Town needs would need to be bought back from Eversource.
  - If new substation was built at Site #2, the Town get it power on site and would not have sell all power to Eversource and buy back what the town needs.

- State of NH Renewable Energy Committee update:
  - One of this project's goals is as a renewable energy project- Jeremy Smith conversation with this Committee.
  - If deemed a renewable energy project, State of NH permitting will be streamlined as project will go through Renewable Energy Committee.
- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) survey needed to determine available tonnage in the area either from municipalities or commercial entities.
- Bonnie Bethune received an excellent reference regarding Waldron from Erica Douglas, Solid Waste Manager at the Lebanon NH Landfill/Recycling Center. Erica, who is an engineer, has been working with Waldron on the methane generation project at the Lebanon Landfill. She said Waldron was "fantastic to work with...I have nothing but great things to say about them...so impressed with Waldron".

Jeremy Smith signed off Teams at 5:45 pm with thanks from the Committee.

- Craig Moore stated that Waldron was committed to helping the town without any funding from the Town until at least January 2024 Deliberative Session. If approved by Town, the 1<sup>st</sup> year would be focused on permitting with actual site work not started until Spring 2026.
- Fred Welch advised the Committee to follow established protocol as far as posting agendas in three places and keeping current on meeting minutes. He also wanted Committee to be aware of permitting, town owned/access points and to understand the perimeters of Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District and other area communities' buy-in to project. He noted the Ashland advantage for siting this facility – existing hydroelectric plant, electric lines, rt. 3 access, town-owned land.
- Alan Cilley noted that Town already has a good working relationship with NH Dept. of Environmental Services (DES)
- Committee as a whole agreed to seek out local resources for assistance in project
- Charlie Bozzello suggested identifying things that need to be done on a timeline "critical path" to stay on top of goals/issues
- Two items to be established:
  - 1) Roadway to town land – Preferred options #1 & #2
  - 2) Interest of Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District – 19 towns (including Ashland) have contract with Casella until 2026; Fred Welch suggested to meet with district officers

### III. OLD BUSINESS:

- Plan visit to WIN Waste/Wheelabrator Waste-to-Energy Incinerator in Penacook, NH
- Fred Welch to research road ownership and right-of-way to town land (Site #2)
- Waldron to provide cost of plant; cost of operations; revenue generation
- Committee continues to focus on financial benefit to town; where will tonnage come from (125 tons per day) ; look to a consulting firm to do waste study within a 40 mile radius or beyond; look at towns that already remove recyclables and establish basis for determining that

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming tasks outlined to include but not limited to:

- Continue to gather information about proposed waste-to-energy facility to present to residents at March 2025 Town Meeting (Warrant article due mid-January 2025)
- Invite Jeremy Smith of Waldron, to next WTE Committee on Wed. November 10, 2023 at 5pm; Jeremy plans to bring Grant Page and team to:
  - 1) Look at Site #2 roadways
  - 2) Talk about potential revenues of proposal – using as an example the value of a ton of MSW; also talk about costs of proposal
- Continue to look at available grants; potential “green” credits to be sold
- Schedule next WTE Committee meeting for Wednesday, 11/01/23 at Utility Conference Room 6 Collins Street at 5pm.

III. MOTION: Alan Cilley

To adjourn meeting.

SECOND: Charlie Bozzello

Motion Passed unanimously; meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.