

TOWN OF ASHLAND
WASTE TO ENERGY COMMITTEE (WTE)
COMMITTEE FORMATION AND MINUTES
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024 5:00 PM
UTILITY CONFERENCE ROOM 6 COLLINS STREET

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Alan Cilley called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. In attendance were Alan Cilley, Selectman Charlie Bozzello, Craig Moore, Mike Myshrall, Bonnie Bethune, Harry Gallien; Will Hess was excused; 6 residents were in attendance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a) **MOTION:** Alan Cilley made a motion to accept minutes from 1/05/24 WTE Committee meeting as written.

SECOND: Harry Gallien

VOTE: Motion passed 6-0

III. OLD BUSINESS:

a) Tour of Wheelabrator Waste-To-Energy Facility in Concord, NH – Haylee Silver at Wheelabrator told Bonnie Bethune they are still not scheduling tours – will continue to check for tour availability.

b) Waldron Presentation: Jeremy Smith and Grant Page joined virtually. Also attending virtually with Waldron was Bruce Scamman of Emanuel Engineering of Stratham, NH, Eric Steinhauser and Stephen Zemba of Sanborn, Head & Associates of Bedford, NH.

1) Air Quality/Emissions Permitting:

- Waldron worked with Sanborn, Head & Associates on the Nashua project and working with them on the Lebanon project for air quality and air emission permitting by the State of NH. Sanborn, Head & Associates has over 30 years of experience with solid waste and air permitting.
- Stephen Zemba stated they would work with the State of NH and NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to apply for permit for Ashland Power Station. A waste-to-energy facility is subject to federal standards that are more stringent than the Wheelabrator facility as it will be a new facility.

- **Stack height** will be determined by building height and facility location i.e. stack will be 2.5 x the height of building (the higher the stack/ the greater dispersion to keep concentrations low in the environment).
- **Prior Project Emissions:** Jeremy Smith notes that other projects Waldron has done have met or exceeded limits. Steve Zamba noted Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) produced in combustion comes the closest emission to permit level limits noting that waste-to-energy plants are “very clean plants with current technologies”.

Q. Charlie Bozzello asked if the WTE Committee could get an outline from Waldron w/

- 1) who sets the emission/air standards to be met
- 2) what emission levels can we achieve to share with residents

A. Jeremy Smith will work with Sanborn, Head & Associates to provide this info.

- Steve Zamba said a Federal Title V Permit is needed – regulatory agencies at NHDES and EPA Region 1.

Q. Joe Mazzone, Resident, asked is continuous testing of emissions done?

A. Steve Zamba said continuous testing is required for some emissions – CEMS (continuous emission monitoring systems) & COMS (continuous opacity monitoring systems); annual testing for others.

A. Harry Gallien noted that stack emissions are monitored 24-7; 365 days/year even if not burning municipal solid waste (MSW).

- Bonnie Bethune noted that once MSW is deposited on the tipping floor and facility staff inspects for any contaminants such as mercury containing items like lithium batteries, thermometers, propane tanks, etc. ; the waste is mixed and “fluffed” prior to placing in the hopper to go to furnace to be burned so is once more inspected by grapple operator. Transfer Station facility operators are certified as solid waste facility operators by NHDES and must take continuing education courses to keep certification and be aware of contaminants in MSW.
- Eric Steinhauser noted that all transfer stations must have an operating plan in place to comply with NHDES criteria to operate.

- Contracts with other towns or businesses will be very clear about prohibitive items.

Q. Charlie Bozzello asked – what is the time frame for permitting?

A. Steve Zamba said EPA will look at permit applications, but major permitting is from NHDES.

Grant Page stated that there needs to be certain equipment in place to be able to get permit; Sanborn, Head & Associates will submit design; Jeremy Smith says there are months of public commenting periods.

Estimated permitting timeframe: 1 year and 3 months

- Mike Myshrall said would be helpful to have a bar graph with time frame; Grant Page will provide that.

Q. Joe Mazzone, Resident, asked if there will be an Environmental Impact Study done?

A. Jeremy Smith says there will be a public comment period and NHDES/EPA may require one.

- Grant Page said had a very good meeting with Jeremy Hiltz who will provide a cost opinion for civil works portion of project at no cost to Town.
- Resident questions to be addressed at the future information sessions included, but not limited to:
 - What happens if permitting does not pass?
 - What happens if does not pass Town vote this year?
 - What happens if another town/company decides to build a waste to energy facility?
 - What grants will be available?
 - Can the WTE Committee present the project in understandable terms?
 - Is there enough waste to supply the plant?
 - Will there be trucks going through downtown Ashland?
 - How many trucks per day will be going into facility?
 - When is the breakeven point financially?

IV: NEW BUSINESS:

1. WTE Committee discussed next public informational meeting and a brochure/ mailing with important information for residents.

Charlie Bozzello to work on a powerpoint presentation with assistance from WTE Committee members.

Judy Dupuis, Resident, suggested a video to help residents understand how a WTE plant works; Craig Moore played a video from a MA WTE plant which was very helpful visually and he will see if Waldron can get WTE Committee permission to use it at the information session(s).

Upcoming Meetings:

Next WTE Committee – Wednesday 1/24/24 at Utility Conference Room
6 Collins Street at 5:00 pm.

Public Informational Meeting – Wednesday 1/31/24 at Ashland School Cafeteria at
5:00 pm

V. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Alan Cilley proposed to adjourn.

MOTION: Craig Moore made motion to adjourn meeting.

SECOND: Charle Bozzello seconded.

VOTE: Motion Passed 6-0; meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

WTE Committee Meeting Minutes 1/25/24