

**TCSWMO  
MEETING  
Somerville Town Office**

**April 24, 2025  
6:30 pm**

The following directors were present: Tom Pitzi, Jacob Tobias, Lee Shane, Charles Garrigan, Henry Hall, Dana Philippi, Elaine Porter, Don Thebeau, John Shepard and Norman Casas.  
Also present were David Stanley, Facility Manager, and Gail Philippi, Administrative Assistant.  
Visitors were Willard Pierpont, Town of Somerville First Selectman.

Tom Pitzi, President opened the meeting at 6:32 pm. Tom noted that the meeting is being recorded by Jacob Tobias.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

A motion was made by Henry Hall and seconded by Norman Casas to accept the minutes of the January 23, 2025, meeting. No Discussion. Motion carried with two abstentions.

**A motion was made by Tom Pitzi and seconded by Lee Shane to discuss the October 24, 2024 Draft minutes in Executive Session in the April meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Checking Account balance as of today is \$158,249.03. The Reserve Account balance is \$82,913.70. The CDARs account balance is \$70,270.92. The total is \$310,712.75.

John Shepard made a motion and Norman Casas seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. No comments or questions. Motion carried unanimously.

Don asked about Somerville having no bag sales this year. Gail explained that she had reached out by email because it was unusual that there were no sales but had heard nothing. The town should have around 72 bags based on what they have picked up at the station and what they have reported selling in the past. Willard Pierpont, the Somerville first selectman, will look into it.  
Norman asked about the deficit in the First Quarter. David explained that this is typical.

**BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**FACILITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

The hard plastic area has been open for about a month. It will be open until the third or fourth week in October.

**HHW Day** is the fourth Saturday in June on the 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 11. We coordinate it with MCSW who does it in the afternoon.

Demo is now exceeding trash which is a healthy revenue stream for us.

Wood harvesting will start around next week; David filed a Notice of Intent with the Forest Service. The Blakes do a good job cleaning up. This is part of a long-term plan set up by forester Nolan Steele. This is not clear cutting. We have to file a plan with the state about what we are doing, who is doing it, and who the forester is. The idea is to not cut and leave it alone but to go back in ten years or so. Not all the work planned for a couple of years ago was completed. Lee asked if we have

a written report, David will dig out original paperwork and bring it next time. This is Nolan Steele's required report. Norman reported on his involvement, and he walked it with David originally. Part of the rationale of cutting on the Station property is it is shading that area, and it gets icy. The new forester is Ethan Jacobs who works for Robbins. This is very regulated by the State. Jacob asked about potential income. David said that the goal was clean up not just revenue.

**Woodlot and property survey:** We have an east side abutter who is contesting the property boundary and says that our driveway is on his property. He has been coming in to the station and complaining to David. He is basing his claim on a hunting app which is an overlay of a Google map on the town tax map. No one can work on that side of the property until it is settled. They will work on the rest of the station property and Stone Road property. David reached out to surveyor Nate Beal to establish the property line. Mr. Beal said that the entire property will need to be surveyed as the work done by the surveyor Morton at the time was notoriously poor. There was never a good sketch. Mr. Beal expects it to cost about \$6,000. The Blakes who own the woodyard in front of us have offered to help with the cost as it would help define their property also. The neighbor's property has been sold at least 3 times since we bought our property in 1992.

**Charles made a motion that we spend \$6,000 to do the boundary survey of the parcel that the Station is on using funds from the Reserve Account and Lee seconded the motion. Motion passed seven to one.**

Discussion: Jacob pointed out that income from the harvesting would pay towards the survey. Tom suggests taking it out of the Reserve Account. Somerville First Selectman Willard Pierpont says he's in the logging business and the loggers are managing the property, they aren't just cutting it once. You need to weed it like a garden.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **ScrapDogs:**

Tom stated that we have been talking about providing composting. David has raised a series of objections and was asked to come up with what is acceptable for him. David said that he would like to think of it as a composting discussion rather than a ScrapDogs discussion.

David visited Mid Coast Solid Waste (MCSW). The high school group never did the project there and it languished. In eight years ScrapDogs has never rebuilt or upgraded their property. When David was there, there was a new large building that looked like an Amish building. It doesn't help the congestion at MCSW, which is a different community than we are. They have subscriptions. At MCSW they have a place where the public without subscriptions can drop off compost. ScrapDogs charges MCSW for this general public food scrap.

David feels that we'd have more participation if we had the general public dropping off, not just subscribers. He would make it pay as you throw to create a revenue stream. David looked around for other composting companies and came up with Frank Jones from Washington. Frank proposed single or multiple collection containers depending on the volume. He suggested a drop off fee based on the amount of material. David will post informational signs and will place the container(s) where they can be watched. There would be no need to use the scales, the containers are easily movable depending on issues that might arise and the seasons. David said that Frank answers his phone, and it has been hard to reach ScrapDogs except by texting. This is a minimal impact situation, it is a revenue stream, and it open to a bigger audience. Frank would sell compost, but it would not involve TCSW.

Dana had a problem that ScrapDogs would allow meat. Tom said that adding meat has no bearing and they can add anything except synthetics. Lee has no stake in any provider. She appreciates the fact of it being someone from Washington. David said this is only for food waste not yard waste.

David would put it by the demo bins where people were already stopping. This is visible to the crew, it can be easily moved if necessary. David talked to Frank about a 13-gallon kitchen bag as an

example and he felt a dollar would be reasonable. The fee would be paid to the attendant. The expense would be for Frank picking up the container. Used plastic bags would get emptied in and not include the bag which would be thrown in the trash. There is no obligation on either side to continue if it is not working. David will report on this in July and Tom suggested giving it 6 months. Feedback from Frank will help make the decision.

Don asked about rodents, David said these containers are tight and picked up frequently and there will not be as much volume as MCSW gets.

**Jacob made a motion to move forward with a composting plan with Frank Jones for a six-month trial period. John Shepard seconded. Motion passed seven to one.**

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

The next meeting is on July 24th at the Union Town Office.

**At 7:39 pm a motion was made by John Shepard, seconded by Don Thebeau and passed to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter and the October 2024 minutes pursuant to 1 MRSA 405§6(A).**

Manager David Stanley and Administrative Assistant Gail Philippi left the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Submitted by Gail Philippi, Administrative Assistant

Executive session

**At 8:31 pm a motion was made by Lee Shane, seconded by Dana Philippi and passed to enter the Director's regular meeting.**

Dana Philippi made a motion and Norman Casas seconded to adjourn at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by Jacob Tobias, Secretary