

**2015 Special Town Meeting
Sanbornton, NH
December 18, 2015**

Moderator, Tim Lang opened the Special Town Meeting at 7:06 p.m. and asked those in attendance to rise & recite the “Pledge of Allegiance” then asked for a moment of silence.

Moderator Lang read Article One: To see if the Town will vote to direct the selectmen to reopen the so-called “Swap Shop” located at the Transfer Station, and to operate the Swap Shop in a manner that it has previously operated, during the normal hours that the Transfer Station is open. The Swap Shop is to be operated in such a way as to promote the goal of reducing waste by encouraging the reuse of items, rather than disposal. To that end, the Swap Shop will accept unwanted household items for donation, and collect and display those items in such a manner that they may be taken (free of charge) and reused by patrons.

Lynn Chong made a **motion** to move Article #1. Sheila Kufert **seconded** the motion. Discussion; Lynn Chong stated the idea for use reuse is different than recycling and referred to one of the State RSA’s regarding reuse. Lynn Chong stated the reuse system that they had at the Transfer Station was wonderful and was cleanly kept by volunteers, I want the swap area back completely to what it was because reusing is an important part of our lives and it saves all of us money.

Lynn Chong made a **motion** to amend Article #1, by adding a sentence to the end of the original article’s language, to read as follows; ***Access to the metal pile shall be restored effective immediately.*** Sheila Kufert **seconded** the motion. Discussion; Lynn Chong referred to Primex’s Risk Assessment report. Lynn Chong stated that accidents are going to happen and Meredith’s Transfer Station allows access to their metal pile for 24 hours, plus what is not reused will have to be trucked away. Lynn Chong stated people will need to check their own items to make sure they are good.

Tara Albert, Department of Environmental Services - Bureau Staff, explained that she is involved with issuing the Town’s solid waste facility permits and the permit doesn’t apply to the operation of the “swap shop”. The Town has an opportunity to be environmentally friendly by letting people repurpose or reuse items locally instead of driving everywhere. Tara Albert referred to RSA 149:1 & 149:2. Tara Albert stated closing the swap shop and the metal pile will increase costs because most of the items will end up in a landfill or incinerator, the Town offered single stream recycling and this would be a step back.

Jennifer Holt stated the shop brings people in the community together and then they can visit, I feel the swap shop should be preserved.

Earl Leighton, Budget Committee Member stated he is not in favor of this because the metal pile has value and a savings for the taxpayers by scrapping it. The swap shop carries an indirect cost to have someone manage the area.

Michelle Navoy stated although the community gets some money for the metal, it also helps the community in other ways and there is nothing about ice on the ground in the insurance report, that is just as dangerous.

Andy Sanborn stated he feels the Solid Waste Committee (SWC) would help to differentiate between scrap items and things like appliances.

Selectman Ober recommended people vote no to the metal pile because the swap shop may have some limited liability but the pile does not.

Samantha Matthews stated she agrees with access to some of the metal pile but absolutely no dumpster diving and some reuse/repurpose, to give back to the community instead of a church.

Moderator Lang called for a ballot card vote. **The amendment to Article #1 passes in the affirmative.**

Moderator Lang asked for any more discussion on Article #1.

Andrea Burns & Julia Chase spoke in favor of the article.

Moderator Lang called the question by a ballot card vote. **Article #1 passes in the affirmative.**

Lynn Chong made a **motion** to restrict reconsideration of Article #1. Sheila Kufert **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** in the **affirmative**.

Moderator Lang read Article Two: To see if the Town will vote to re-establish the Solid Waste Committee, the purpose of which is to address policy issues involving the Town's involvement with solid waste matters; to recommend to the Town Selectmen the adoption and/or revision of policies related to solid waste; to advise the Selectmen on issues relating to the transfer and recycling functions, including but not limited to advising regarding budget preparation, equipment purchases, acceptance of demolition materials, recycling policies, and the setting of tipping fees. Said Solid waste Committee is to be comprised of five members, to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Lynn Chong made a **motion** to move Article #2. Jennifer Holt **seconded** the motion. Discussion; Lynn Chong stated as of today there should be about six (6) volunteers for the SWC.

Andy Sanborn stated the committee would be advisory and can offer a lot of advice but he would like to hear from the Board of Selectmen (BOS) on what their vision for the community is.

Chair Nickerson replied the BOS have not discussed this issue, as of yet because there were only two interested candidates and they will go through the interview process and see, the committee will advise the BOS but the board has not come up with any rules.

Janet Danforth asked that when the committee is reviewing that they carefully consider what fees are being charged for disposal of items because there have been sofas, etc. on the side of the Town's roads, which is what happens when the fees are too high.

Chair Nickerson replied the Transfer Station is running in the black now and the metal pile is the only thing making the Town any money. Groton and Meredith do not have swap shops but the Town will try to set this up, so we can afford it and this probably won't happen until after March so we (BOS) can work with the SWC but an additional \$30-\$40K may be needed to make the operations safe.

Tara Albert stated the price of scrap metal is down but items that can be reused/repurposed should be set aside. I volunteer to be part of the SWC, thanks.

Lynn Chong stated the committee will have a lot of choices to make and she also hopes to be part of the SWC, even though she has strong feelings.

Moderator Lang called the question by a ballot card vote. **Article #2 passes in the affirmative.**

Article Three: To see if the Town will vote to adopt an ordinance requiring all Town residents who dispose of trash and/or recycling at the Transfer Station to first obtain an annual Transfer Station/Recycling Center sticker, to be displayed on the resident's vehicle. Said stickers are only to be issued upon proof of residency in Sanbornton. The fee for said sticker will be used to offset the cost of printing the stickers and for administering the sticker program.

Lynn Chong made a **motion** to move Article #3. Faith Tobin **seconded** the motion. Discussion; Lynn Chong stated the Town doesn't require a dump sticker and the Attendants do not scrutinize everyone that comes in, there is only one sign and we used to sign a waiver of liability. The fee can be established by the SWC, as well as the the level of control that the Town used to have and I speak in favor of this article.

Earl Leighton feels the article should not say "resident" and be replaced with "property owner".

Bill Whalen stated he has not seen dump stickers in years but if we get them, they will be ignored down the road and a person will be needed to check for the stickers at the gate. There is an ordinance on the books to have them but my concern as a taxpayer is the cost, plus being able to afford the insurance.

Kier Barbour asked if the stickers would replace the tags.

Lynn Chong replied no, the stickers would be in addition too.

Sheila Arnold asked if there was a fee already established because if not, then she would have a problem with approving the article.

Moderator Lang called the question by a ballot card vote. **Article #3 failed in the negative.**

Lynn Chong made a **motion** to restrict reconsideration of Article #2 and Article #3. Fletcher Lokey **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** in the **affirmative**.

Gloria Muraszko made a **motion** to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 8:02 p.m. Selectman Van Tassel **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** in the **affirmative**.

Respectfully submitted,
April Rollins, Administrative Specialist
for Marla Davis, Town Clerk/Tax Collector