

Andover Transfer Station Preparing for New Recycling Push

SSR, or something like it, arrives soon.

By Charlie Darling, Beacon staff

With the Concord trash co-operative having bailed out of its years-long single-stream recycling (SSR) plans last year, the Andover Board of Selectmen and Transfer Station Supervisor Reggie Roy have been hard at work trying to find another solution that will be right for Andover. In the coming weeks, you should begin to see the fruits of their labors at the Transfer Station.

Many of the final details are still being worked out, but the broad outlines are becoming clear. When I spoke to Reggie in mid-June, he was collecting a few final proposals to put in front of the Selectmen. His hope was that with all the figures in front of them, they could make a decision and have him start implementing changes by mid-July.

Here's what Reggie was able to tell me in mid-June:

Double-Stream Recycling

We almost certainly won't have a classic SSR setup, for one simple reason: it doesn't make sense to pay to move glass, which is very heavy, out of town. Instead, the plan is to collect recyclable glass separately; stockpile it at the Transfer Station; and when the pile is big enough, crush it to be used as road-building material.

Reggie has already implemented this glass recycling plan by putting a 1-yard container (a second one is due soon) next to the Recycling Building. That's where recyclable glass goes now. The container is small so that the Bobcat can lift it even when it's full of glass and tote it to the growing glass pile.

Compact or Open?

That leaves the question of what to do with the rest of Andover's recyclables – paper, paperboard, cardboard, aluminum, metal, and plastics #1 through #7. Reggie, who was a purchasing agent for 28 years and loves digging through numbers and comparing costs and benefits, has been developing detailed quotes on two different alternatives: an open container, much like the cur-

rent Dumpster Depot paper/paperboard container; or a large, closed container with a compactor built into it.

Whichever of the two alternatives the Board of Selectmen ultimately chooses, it will likely be for financial reasons, because for Transfer Station "customers," the two choices are essentially identical. In each case, we'll put our trash in the hopper, our glass in the small glass containers, and all our other recyclables in a third spot – either an open container, or a closed container with a compactor built in.

Analyzing the costs of these two potential almost-SSR solutions is very complex. Reggie is getting cost quotes for:

- Installing a closed container next to the Transfer Station building and wiring its three-phase electric compactor
- Renting whichever container we settle on
- Hauling a container and about three tons of recyclables somewhere every week
- Tipping fees at whatever SSR facility we haul it to – the current candidates are in Hooksett, Belmont, and White River Junction. The preliminary numbers suggest that the tipping fee for our recyclables may be only about a third of what we pay to tip trash into the Penacook incinerator.

Making the Numbers Work
Even with all of Reggie's advance number work, the Board of Selectmen will still have a tough financial decision to make. On the one hand, tipping at a third the rate of Penacook sounds good. On the other hand, we'll lose the revenue we currently make from selling segregated recyclables like aluminum ourselves.

Back on the first hand, with one or both of our old balers threatening to soon become scrap metal themselves, we can avoid significant future expense to repair or replace the balers if we quit segregating and baling recyclables to sell.

Finally, there's the potential savings
See SSR on page 11

THE SWAP SHOP WELCOME

REUSABLE ITEMS IN WORKING CONDITION:

PLEASE NO UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE, TIRES, WINDOWS, DOORS, ELECTRONICS, PORCELAIN FIXTURES

The Swap Shop will be open Saturday, July 13 from 8 AM to noon and welcomes (before noon) reusable items in working condition like toys, clothing, books, bicycles, and kitchenware. Please, **no** upholstered furniture, tires, windows, doors, electronics, or porcelain fixtures.

Get Your Beach and Transfer Station Sticker at Town Clerk's Office

Town Offices closed on July 4 and 5

By Joanna Sumner
Andover Town Clerk and Tax Collector

The Town Clerk's office is going to be closed on Thursday, July 4 (and Friday, July 5, since we're always closed on Fridays). Otherwise, we will be open regular hours during the holiday week.

New Hampshire State Park Plate

Now that summer is upon us, we can begin visiting the state parks to go climbing, swimming, or just relaxing and having a picnic. With the State Park plates you and your passengers will have free entry. You can change to Park Plates even if it is not your month to renew your registration.

The annual fee for a park license plate is \$85, plus a one-time fee of \$8. All the revenues earned from the purchase of the New Hampshire State Park license plate will be credited to the State Park Fund, which supports the

daily operations of the New Hampshire State Parks system.

Boat Registrations

We started registering boats here in Andover last month and have brought in nearly \$200 in new revenue for the Town. Please remember next year when the season begins that you can enjoy the convenience of registering your boat here in town and that the Town will benefit from the business.

Beach/Dump Stickers

Because of the limited parking and the size of the Town Beach on Highland Lake, the use of the beach is restricted to Andover residents and their guests. If you do not have a beach/dump sticker on your vehicle, you may be asked to leave the beach or find that you are subject to a fine.

The stickers are only \$5 and can be purchased at the Town Clerk's office or at the Transfer Station. Temporary beach stickers can be purchased by summer residents.



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