

Welcome to the first addition of Chitchat. In this quarterly newsletter, Town staff will be providing information regarding Solid Waste Management within the Town.

Waste Happens

The big picture...

Why does the town have a wastewater treatment plant (HPCF) and a landfill?

In the 1970's, with the changes to Federal Pollution Control laws and the development of what is known today as the Clean Water Act, maintaining clean water became a priority in all states across the country. Along with the development of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and increased regulation, the Clean Water Act also established grants for the construction of Sewage Treatment Plants. Like many other municipalities, the Town of Hartland's leadership, at that time, made decisions that have led to long term financial and environmental responsibilities and commitments. These decisions were made to increase the probability of obtaining grant monies to help support the industry and protect jobs. The historic decisions to support hometown industry has led to many municipally owned and operated wastewater treatment plants, and associated landfills, which today would be 100% industry owned. Fortunately for the Town of Hartland, we are

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Do not miss next issue (planned to be distributed quarterly). Future issues will be on town's website and at town office. A Facebook page is also in the works!

Helpful info

Town Office: 21 Elm Street

(207) 938-4401 phone (207) 938-3018 fax

Mon thru Wed & Fri 8am-4:15pm

Late day is Thurs 9am – 5:15pm (closed holidays)

Town website: www.townofhartlandme.com (includes email addresses for town staff/departments and much more) Do not have a computer? The Hartland Library offers access to computers.

Code Enforcement: Hours: Wednesdays 1pm-4:30pm

General Assistance: applications taken on Tuesday & Thursdays 12:30pm – 4pm – contact office for more info

Transfer Station: RT 43 towards Athens, past Vigue Road
Open: Thurs thru Sun 9am – 4pm (closed holidays)

This is where Hartland residents can take household trash and recycling. You will need a current vehicle decal, which is issued at the town office.

Hartland Landfill: RT 43 towards Athens. The landfill is a restricted site and not open to the public. It is not a public facility. Normal operating hours are weekdays 7am-4pm (closed holidays).

Have a question or concern on the landfill? Contact the town office or email: hartlandlandfillcomplaints@gmail.com.

Hartland Pollution Control Facility (HPCF): Located on Pittsfield Ave. This facility is also referred to as Hartland Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). This facility is a restricted site and not open to the public.

Upcoming

Friday, May 3rd - Town municipal elections will be held from 10am to 7pm at the Hartland Fire Department.

Saturday, May 4th - Town meeting will be held at 9am at the Hartland Fire Department.

The fire department is located at 43 Canaan Road.

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one of the few Maine that can still say we have an industry to host.

The beginnings...1970's

Hartland's wastewater treatment plant came on line in the early 1970's with the landfill following shortly thereafter to provide a location for the disposal of the processed waste (sludge). Originally, in 1976, the landfill was established on land owned by Irving Tanning to support the business. The Town of Hartland leased the landfill land, obtained the permits from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), and started operating the Hartland landfill in 1977. The funding for the operation and future landfill development was divided between the users (Tannery and Town) based on the percentage of waste provided by each. This division of costs led to the Tannery being responsible for 94% of the costs and the Town responsible for 6%. For the first ten years, the town was permitted to operate an unlined, attenuation, landfill in accordance with regulations of that that time period. Unfortunately, this resulted in many historic environmental problems.

Then came the 1980s and 1990s

The rate of filling of the landfill was dependent on the Tannery. Over the years, the increase or decrease in the quantity of waste processed at the HPCF and sludge disposed of at the landfill was driven by production at the tannery. To keep up with the needs of the Tannery and the changing regulations, the attenuation landfill was closed and Phases I and II were permitted as secure (lined) landfill areas in 1986 and 1995. In the late 90's, as business at the tannery declined so did the maintenance and upkeep at both the HPCF and the landfill.

2000's - 2010's brought about a bankruptcy era

During the early 2000s, Irving Tanning Company filed bankruptcy three times. This decade cost the taxpayer's of Hartland thousands of dollars. We had no control over it. The 2005 tannery bankruptcy yielded out a

reduced cost share of 80/20 (down from the 94/6 discussed previously) for the HPCF/landfill budget, which was combined at the time. In addition, the following conditions were dictated by the US Bankruptcy Court: \$100,000 was to be taken off the gross operating budget, no debt service, and no capital expenditures. These were now the full responsibility of the Town. The Town was also instructed to take ownership of the current landfill lot which is 87 +/- acres. These changes resulted in the town financially supplementing the industry and caused our own financial woes during the 2008/2009 timeframe. At that time, Selectmen went to Augusta to ask the Governor for permission to file bankruptcy as a town. Governor Baldacci said "not on my watch" and pressured the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to loan the Town \$1,200,000.

In an attempt to turn the tide of the early 2000s, and address long overdue concerns at the landfill, members of the 2010 town management obtained a \$300,000 USDA loan and a \$778,174 EDA grant for much needed repair work. These repairs included the replacement of a leaking leachate pond liner with a composite liner system that includes leak detection, collection of leachate from seeps through the cover of the unlined (attenuated) landfill, and the replacement of deteriorating intermediate cover on the Phase I area.

2011 - Present & steady financial gain

In 2011, Tasman Leather Group, LLC purchased only the personal property of the former tannery. Tasman Leather Group, LLC negotiated an additional reduction in cost share to 70/30 based on the same conditions in the 2005 bankruptcy agreement.

An assessment of the cost share agreement in 2013-2014 revealed that taxpayers were supplementing a large portion of the HPCF/landfill budget. Since that time, the HPCF cost share has been renegotiated to be fair and equitable. Today, the Tasman Group, LLC cost share is 94% with the remaining 6% paid for by the Town. This cost has **remained funded 100% by the users with NO TAXATION to the town budget.** The

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cost share is now based on the gross operating budget, debt service and capital expenditures all inclusive. Thank you to Tasman Leather Group, LLC and the Tasman family for your commitment to the Town.

In 2015, the town received a Northern Border Regional Commission Grant of \$250,000 and, using an approximate match of \$120,000 +/- from the HPCF/landfill budget, constructed additional secure landfill capacity on the side slope of the unlined landfill. The Phase III construction project, provided additional landfill capacity, allowed for the collection of additional leachate seeps from the closed landfill, and served as a more restrictive cover on the attenuation landfill. This project was the result of a discussion with Governor LePage who encouraged us to help support the new ownership of the tannery with a goal of increasing capacity and reducing both tannery and town costs.

In 2016, another funding mechanism was identified for the landfill which was to accept other waste streams and increase revenue. At that time, the town applied for, and was granted, a special waste permit from MDEP which allowed the town to accept additional materials deemed compatible to its existing waste stream. These include, but are not limited to, paper mill sludge, ash, short paper fiber, dredge materials, automobile shredder residue, construction demolition & debris, and non-hazardous contaminated soils. This change allowed the landfill budget to become stand alone and to be paid for by the users of the landfill with no town taxation added to the Town budget.

Unfortunately, in July of 2017, waste movement occurred within the secure landfill. There was no release to the environment of solids or liquids from the landfill and all waste remained contained within the liner system. However, the inability to place proper cover on an unstable surface led to odors observed offsite within the adjacent neighborhood. At that time, the town sought assistance from various consultants to address stability issues.

To stabilize the landfill, additional drainage piping and a variety of stronger waste materials were mixed with the existing wastes in 2018. To help minimize off site odors, an odor neutralizing spray system was also installed. Improvements for odor management continue to be explored and implemented and include covering of delivery vehicles and waste loads, coordination of drop off times to allow spreading and covering of odorous waste (treatment plant sludge) as soon as possible, use of the odor neutralizing spray line, and application of lime for spot odor management. Although we continue to receive odor complaints from residents on Martin and Pleasant Street, the frequency is reduced and odors observed on site have diminished greatly. The MDEP continues to visit the landfill regularly and has not identified any violations of their nuisance odor regulations. The town's consultant has also completed gas monitoring and sampling both on and off site to identify potential releases and these efforts have not identified levels that pose a health risk.

Town talk...in closing

Recently, there has been discussion in town about closure of the landfill. Closing the landfill is not as simple as locking the gate. The MDEP has mandatory requirements for a cover system that would result in a projected cost of \$1,175,188. In addition, the landfill is required to be monitored for an additional 30 years beyond the closure date. The cost of the required monitoring is estimated to have an additional cost of \$1,721,809. Currently, the town has put away approximately \$275,000, from the landfill revenue, to apply to these costs. The difference would be funded through taxation. Closing the landfill will also result in alternate disposal for the sludge from the HPCF and materials from the tannery. This would result in higher disposal cost for HPCF sewer users and increased operating costs for the Tasman Leather Group, LLC.

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Landfill Frequently Asked Questions

Is sludge hazardous?

Sludge accepted at the landfill is nonhazardous and tested in accordance with Federal, State, and local regulations. Test data is available.

Does the landfill attract rats?

All wastes accepted at the landfill are industrial/commercial and provide no food sources.

What is the town doing about the dust created at the landfill?

Written procedures are followed to minimize dust on site to the extent practicable and dust has not been confirmed to be leaving the landfill property.

Does the town receive odor complaints?

Yes, the town receives odor complaints. However, the odors have not been determined by MDEP to be in violation of their "nuisance odor law". Therefore, we are in compliance.

Does the landfill pollute offsite drinking water?

Two private wells were recently tested on RT 23 and both met State of Maine Drinking Water standards.

Have property values decreased due to landfill?

Current sales data does not support that claim.

Is the landfill harming the ecosystem? Our operating landfill is lined and has a leak detection system that is monitored monthly. We have not identified a leak so the liner system is protecting our ecosystem.

Does the CDD (construction demolition & debris) at the landfill contain asbestos?

State law requires that an asbestos assessment and removal be performed for all commercial buildings prior to demolition. General CDD brought to the landfill does not contain asbestos.

Are the substances in auto fluff harmful?

State law requires the removal of batteries and all fluids from vehicles prior to shredding. Our landfill also requires testing prior to disposal. Test data is available.

How much would it cost to close the landfill?

It is currently estimated at a cost of \$2,896,997.

A slideshow was presented to the public on 9/19/2018. It is on the town's website (under Departments of the Town tab - Hartland Landfill).

Another resource to find more information is via the state's website: www.maine.gov.

COMMUNITY FOCUS GROUP

Objective:

Create a Stakeholder's group to help assist the Board of Selectmen with education and communications to the Inhabitants of the Town of Hartland on topics requested by the Board of Selectmen.

Goal:

To provide factual information to the Citizens based on research and due diligence performed by the Community Focus Group and report their findings to the public once reports are reviewed by the Board of Selectmen.

10 Residents picked by the Board of Selectmen with a diverse cross section of experience and professions from the following fields:

Randy Butler, Clergy
Mark Brooks, Criminal Justice
Tim Boulanger, Business Owner
Scott Finnemore, Education
Chris Ring, Legal
Beth Clark, Medical/Healthcare
Dan Piasecki, Engineering
Rick Sanborn, Citizens Initiative Group
Annette Geydoshek, Hartland Citizen
John Clark, Hartland Citizen