

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
April 15, 2019  
Public Hearing Regarding Rainbow Bridge Composting**

**Call to Order**

5:30 pm – Chairman Robertson called the public hearing to order

**Present:** Andrew Robertson, Chairman; Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman; Fred McGarry, Jeff Shute and Cindy McHugh, Selectpersons.

Chairman Robertson stated the public hearing by reading of the hearing notice for Rainbow Bridge Composting.

Chairman Robertson stated that he didn't think that the public hearing was required but that the Board thought that it would be good for the public to have a hearing in order to discuss the project.

He invited anyone that would like to speak or comment to go to the microphone.

Members of the Rainbow Bridge Composting company went to the microphone and explained their proposal.

They stated that they wanted to lease 5 acres at the transfer station but would not be using all of the acreage.

They also explained the process of how the composting would work and their credentials they had in order to proceed with this type of business.

Chairman Robertson asked that all questions go through the chair and back to the person at the microphone. He also noted that they had handouts courtesy of Selectman McGarry from the NH Department of Agriculture and the NH Department of Environmental Services.

He stated that this is a recognized method of disposing of large animals.

Selectman McGarry stated that the NHDES document talked about disposing of large animals and the groundwater issue if animals were just buried.

He also stated that the document from the Department of Agriculture specifically addressing large animal composting and best practices recommended by the Department of Agriculture.

Chairman Robertson stated that for those that are not familiar with the site, it is east of the transfer station and was corrected by the Rainbow Bridge personnel that it was west of the transfer station and would not be seen from the road.

**Chris Kalapinski – 32 Brown Road**

He stated that he was directly affected by this project.

His first question asked why they wouldn't use the existing entrance to the transfer station to which Chairman Robertson stated that there were a couple of reasons.

The primary reason is the way that the transfer station is managed. They wanted to come off the road with a separate entrance that Rainbow Bridge has a key to. They didn't want non-municipal access to the transfer station particularly when it wasn't staffed by town employees.

Mr. Kalapinski asked if the town attorney had been asked to look at this project to which Chairman Robertson stated that they had as it had been presented to the Board and was stated that the attorney's comments were in regards to the lease agreement and ensuring that there was appropriate liability insurance.

He also asked how the Board thought that this project would affect the property values of the direct abutters of the project.

He stated that his home is directly across from where this project is being proposed and his opinion was that no matter what kind of composting project this would be, there is a distinct smell involved such as with the composting project in Fremont.

Chairman Robertson stated that the Board didn't have any idea as to the affect on the property value and will recognize other Board members. He stated that the project owners stated that it would be located far back from the road.

Selectman McGarry asked if Mr. Kalapinski had gotten the handout from the Department of Agriculture to which Mr. Kalapinski stated that he had done some research online.

Selectman McGarry continued to stated that the composting pile does not get turned for the large animals. It stays static and it doesn't get changed.

The Rainbow Bridge personnel thanked Mr. Kalapinski for his questions and wanted to address his concerns. One of the big items is that on the map that was handed out, there are minimal requirements of a 100' buffer and they stated that they pushed theirs back even further and there is a visual buffer of trees to act as a screen.

They also addressed the "smell" issue and stated that they don't turn the pile for 8 to 12 weeks but monitor the temperature of the pile and wait until there are at a good point to turn the pile and there is a zero-smell policy.

Mr. Kalapinski asked what happens to the bone structure of the animal to which Chairman Robertson stated that he has a relative that owns a large dairy farm and has a project similar to this on their farm and he is amazed at how the animal breaks down as it goes through this process.

The Rainbow Bridge person stated that any bones that don't break down during the first part of the process are then moved to another area to be broken down more and that it takes approximately a year to completely break down.

It was stated that to remove the bones from the first process, they would screen out the larger material and it would go into the second pile base and then the new animal would go on top. The screened material would go into a "finished" pile of compost that is ready to use.

In summary from Mr. Kalapinski, he stated that the Brown Road residents already deal with traffic from the transfer station on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and in his opinion, this project will create more traffic. He also stated that the project would attract animals such as coyote and it will smell even though the Rainbow Bridge personnel stated that it won't and that this project isn't good for Brown Road.

Rainbow Bridge personnel stated that this project will not be like a large-scale composting facility and therefore traffic will be minimal with just trucks coming in with the materials for the composting recipe and the three people that would be bringing animals in with a truck or truck and trailer.

It was asked what the composting material would consist of which was answered that it would be used horse shavings, bedding and wood chips. The wood chips would be put down as the base so to promote air flow and composting.

It was asked what kind of volume were they expecting to which it was answered that it would be a small-scale startup with 1,000 yards a year to start but depends on how many animals that they turn over as it takes at least three to six weeks to break down a 1,000-pound animal.

A question regarding where the animals were coming from to which it was answered it would be small and large-scale farms as well as veterinarians. He did note that some people would not be using this service because they can still bury their animals on their property or cremate.

It was asked about diseases that the animal might have had before it died and how that would be addressed and it was noted that they would be picking up the animals mainly from the veterinarian who would know how the animal died and some animals would be not picked up if it had some contagious disease.

Someone in the audience stated that the project owners have 75 to 80 feet on a state road and why they were looking to lease this property to which it was answered that they would have to apply for a solid waste permit and this permit would stay with the property forever whereas the transfer station already has a solid waste permit.

A member of the audience asked if there were any chemicals that were used to break down the animal to which is was answered that it was an all-natural process.

Chairman Robertson took a poll of the audience to see who is for and who was against or who is indifferent.

### **Russ Simons – 34 Brown Road**

He stated that last year, the transfer station had an issue with rats and didn't think the town did a good job of trying to eliminate them.

He asked how the town was going to deal with the issue of rats, coyote or other nuisance animals and who was going to pay for that whether it would be Rainbow Bridge or the tax payers.

Chairman Robertson stated that at this time there is no municipal funding plan for pest control for private residences on Brown Road.

The Board had a similar concern regarding animals such as coyotes and Rainbow Bridge stated that they would have adequate fencing to keep this from becoming an issue.

Mr. Simons also stated that the traffic that would be generated is more of a concern now as he didn't realize that not only would there be animals coming in but also supply trucks with chips and manure.

Another suggestion from Mr. Simons was why, if they decide to go through with this project, couldn't the transfer station move the entrance up to the first turn and then have an entrance for Rainbow Bridge in this area.

Mr. Simons also brought up the fact that since the trees were thinned out, the smoke from the transfer station when they burn, is now an issue. It hadn't been an issue for many years.

Vice Chairman Pitman asked Mr. Simons to explain what he was indicating regarding the road for Rainbow Bridge.

A representative from Rainbow Bridge addressed the issue of traffic which she had picked up on, was a concern and explained that it wouldn't be clients vehicles coming to Rainbow Bridge but just delivery trucks for their composting materials and their vehicle with or without the trailer.

A member of the audience asked if there was any concern for water runoff which it was answered that any runoff would be contained in a grass filter strip and be sized appropriately to guidelines.

Selectman McGarry added that if the Board decides to lease the property to Rainbow Bridge, he stated that this project still needs to go before the Planning Board with a public hearing and issues such as runoff, traffic, and such will be addressed at that time.

Mr. Simons asked, since he had walked the property, it seemed that the stakes and the drawing do not match and asked which is correct. It was answered that the drawing was correct.

It was asked who the surveyor was for the project and it was answered that it was a personal friend who was helping them out. This person is not licensed in NH and they will use licensed services once they know that the project has been approved.

It was asked what the lease agreement would be to which Selectman McGarry stated that it would be \$200.00 a month for the first year, \$300.00 a month for the second year and \$400.00 a month for the third year. The monthly fee was estimated based on the Avitar estimates.

It was also asked about electricity on the site to which it was answered that there would be none.

Chairman Robertson closed the public hearing at this time.

*The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Dianne L. Kimball, Recording Secretary  
Pending approval by the Board of Selectmen*