

**Village of Haines Junction  
CoW Meeting Minutes  
January 29, 2025**

**Present:**

Deputy Mayor Strand  
Councillor Bushe  
Councillor Mackinnon  
Councillor McPhie

**Absent:**

CAO Fairbank  
Policy/Communications Manager Ogden

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm

**Acknowledgement of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Traditional Territory**

Deputy Mayor Strand acknowledged that we are on the traditional territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

**Review of Input from Public Meeting**

Purpose of meeting:

To review and discuss public input gathered during the January 13, 2025 public meeting on tipping fees

Materials distributed at the meeting:

The following documents were distributed at the meeting:

- For discussion: PowerPoint presentation on roundtable results
- For reference: Roundtable results (raw data)
- For reference: PowerPoint presentation from January 13, 2025 public meeting

Topics discussed at the meeting:

**Free day**

- Should have a residential clean-up focus.
- Should be within limits set by Council (e.g. what can be dropped off for free and how much).

**Composting**

- Need to make this easy for schools, restaurants.
- Request for unit at landfill (whether or not YG purchases this for the Village).
- Farmers can make use of food scraps produced by restaurants/grocery store/bakery etc.
- Backyard compost bins were purchased for the community 15 years ago.
- If compost is used for landscaping or is sold, it needs to meet regulatory requirements.
- Interested in receiving proposals from Food Cycler for how this program can be expanded.

#### Free store

- Health and safety issues are a primary concern.
- The thrift store worried about being inundated with clothing should the Village no longer accept clothing.
- Consider expanding free store space by acquiring shipping containers and gradually expanding.
- Encourage a privately run reuse store (like Live to Thrift in Whitehorse).
- Ensure there is a live feed of cameras to gate attendant and to recycling centre
- Charge a fee for taking an item from free store (e.g. \$1 per item salvaged or put out a donation tin).
- Extend roof on side of free store to create space for large items to be dropped off.

#### Out of region users

- Should provide opportunities for people to safely dump garbage when the landfill is closed on Monday/Tuesday.
- Reconsider putting grates on village bins that limit size of items that can be deposited [note – only one bin, the bin outside the arena has a grate and this is because it has been problematic]. Consider additional dumping in village bins to be part of the transition.
- Provide recycling bin adjacent to every public garbage bin.
- Fall 2021 letter from the public suggested providing a trailer with garbage, compost and recycling bins to community events; make this a requirement of event permit including weddings etc.

#### Consultation/committee

- Ensure there is engagement before plans are drafted – gather input at early stages.
- Committee/working group should be inclusive – open to all community members to attend.
- Council member should have a seat.

#### Education/outreach

- Dawson gate attendant manages their free store; our gatehouse is too far from free store for this to be feasible.
- Provide education to demolition companies for how to sort waste; provide incentives e.g. can drop off reusable materials for free. Use recyclable materials to build new free store.

#### Flat rate/annual fee

- Mayo's flat fee allows 1.5 garbage bags/week; there is no gate attendant so this on the honor system.
- Flat fees promote community approach to make it easier for those on a tight budget vs. an approach that is based on individualism.

#### Salvage

- Need to invite Public Works Manager to provide feedback on operational issues around providing tickets/credits
- Permits would put responsibility on person to salvage in a safe way.
- In reality, permits don't really remove Village's liability from associated with allowing salvaging. All communities are grappling with how to address this liability.
- Credit could be for e.g. 2m<sup>3</sup> of metals versus a specific item.
- Explore ways to foster reuse before items coming to the landfill – e.g. Facebook site.

Support low-income users/seniors

- Stay away from judging who is low income
- Concern for anyone with limited mobility or who is unable to drive and are unable to take their garbage to the landfill. Set up garbage pickup service for this segment of our community (still required pay for garbage bag tags). Application driven – would help to assess need for this sort of service.

Grubbing/Stripping

- Conversations with contractor community are ongoing.

Closing comments:

- An updated tipping fee comparison was provided from the community group that had distributed a brochure at the January 13 meeting. Apologies were shared for any inaccuracies in the previous brochure that was distributed.
- Several concerns raised since the bylaw was passed were not addressed at the January 13<sup>th</sup> roundtables, but have not been forgotten / are still on our radar


Next steps

- Council is exploring options for committee/working group; have not decided yet how it wants to proceed
- Village is pursuing composting unit
- Village is continuing to work with AYC to seek support from YG with ELVs
- Village is continuing to work with local contractors on grubbing/stripping
- Tipping fees will start March 5<sup>th</sup>. As data comes in, will have information on which adjustments to the fee schedule can be made.
- Upcoming CoW on February 5<sup>th</sup>, continuation of finance 101 along with property taxes 101. Opportunity for Council and the public to learn. The question of why we are charging tipping fees when we have financial reserves will be discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm



Deputy Mayor Diane Strand

  
CAO David Fairbank