



TOWN COUNCIL – AGENDA REQUEST FORM

THIS FORM WILL BECOME PART OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION USED BY THE COUNCIL AND PUBLIC

Please submit Agenda Request Form, **including back up information**, 8 days prior to the requested meeting date. **Public Hearing requests must be submitted 20 days prior to requested meeting date to meet publication deadlines** (exceptions may be authorized by the Town Manager, Chairman/Vice Chair).

MEETING INFORMATION

Date Submitted: July 7, 2021
Submitted by: Town Manager Paul T. Micali
Department:
Speakers:

Date of Meeting: July 15, 2021
Time Required: 15 minutes
Background Info. Supplied: Yes: No:

CATEGORY OF BUSINESS (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Appointment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognition/Resignation/Retirement:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Hearing:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Old Business:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Business:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Agenda:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonpublic:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

TITLE OF ITEM

Transfer Station Swap Shop Re-opening Discussion

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM

The Town Council to discuss re-opening the Swap Shop located at the Transfer Station.

REFERENCE (IF KNOWN)

RSA:	Warrant Article:	_____
Charter Article:	Town Meeting:	_____
Other:	N/A	_____

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Projector:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant Requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easel:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joint Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Seating:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laptop:	<input type="checkbox"/>	None:	<input type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:	<u>Paul Micali</u>	Address:	<u>6 Baboosic Lake Road</u>
Phone Number:	<u>424-2331</u>	Email Address:	<u>pmicali@merrimacknh.gov</u>

APPROVAL

Town Manager: Yes No: Chair/Vice Chair: Yes No:
Hold for Meeting Date: _____

Memo

TO: Town Council
FROM: Town Manager Paul T. Micali
DATE: July 7, 2021
RE: **Swap Shop**



At the May 13th Town Council meeting a decision was made to keep the Swap Shop closed and to monitor the situation based on the conditions of the Pandemic. I have attached the minutes to the meeting for your review.

While the country comes out of the pandemic there still is concern for the Delta Variant of the COVID-19 virus. Here in New Hampshire we are about 65% vaccinated and the state has fully re-opened without limitations. I have spoken with staff about re-opening the Swap Shop. They are in agreement that the Town allow the Swap Shop to re-open to pre-pandemic status. The residents would have to be mindful of social distancing and just like at Town Hall, masks would be encouraged for non-vaccinated residents.

Approved: June 10, 2021

Posted: June 14, 2021

town did not have any festivities last year and the Rotary is not doing festivities this year, there is extra money in the budget to spend towards these items. Town Manager Paul Micali then clarified that the Rotary would like to partner with the Town for the Old Homes day/fall festival and put their \$10,000 towards that event. Mr. Micali then said that he informed the Rotary that they can be added to the agenda at one of the June Town Council meetings to discuss their plans with the Council. Mr. Micali then shared that there is \$40,000 left over from last years cancelled 4th of July festivities.; Without additional funding, there will be \$15,000 left for this years 4th of July budget.

MOTION made by Councilor Harrington and seconded by Councilor Healey to designate \$25,000 for future planning for any and all 275th Anniversary activities and other items.

MOTION CARRIES 5-0-0

4. Transfer Station Swap Shop Re-opening Discussion

Submitted by Public Works Director Kyle Fox and Town Manager Paul T. Micali

The Town Council to discuss the possibility of re-opening the Swap Shop located at the Merrimack Transfer Station.

Town Manager Paul Micali stated that the Swap Shop was closed during the initial emergency orders from Governor Sununu last year. As of last week, the emergency orders have ended, and the public has been inquiring when the Swap Shop will reopen. Public Works Director Kyle Fox has created a plan to safely reopen the Swap Shop. Because of the small size of the Swap Shop, Mr. Micali and Mr. Fox have worked out how to limit the number of people allowed in the trailer at a time, as well as limit the amount of time an individual can be inside. They are asking for no more than 2 people in at a time with a 10-minute time limit for shopping. Additionally, facial coverings will be mandatory due to the enclosed space. Mr. Fox shared that the Swap Shop is a popular amenity for residents that helps keep items out of the waste stream. He then stated that he is nervous to reopen it and anticipates issues. He is trying to take a measured approach to this to see how reopening will go; if residents are unable to adhere to the proposed rules, they will have to close the Swap Shop again. Councilor Murphy agreed that the Swap Shop is a wonderful amenity but is concerned with rule enforcement as well as the safety of the workers who may find themselves in challenging positions. Mr. Fox agrees with these concerns, but stated that the Swap Shop is not staffed, rather there are security cameras in the area and the Foreman will go out if there are any issues and call the Police if escalation occurs. Mr. Micali informed the Council that they will have signage in the area to ensure residents are aware of the policies and it may take a bit of time for these new rules to be learned by the community. Councilor Murphy then asked if it would be up to the public to inform employees if there are extra people in the Swap Shop or if people are in there for longer than 10 minutes, in which Mr. Micali replied that there is usually staff around the area who can keep an eye out to ensure rules are being followed.

Vice Chair Rothhaus asked if there were cameras inside the trailer, in which Mr. Fox said that there are not. Vice Chair Rothhaus then asked if cameras can be installed inside, as that may solve the issue of ensuring the rules are being followed. Councilor Harrington agreed with Councilor Murphy's concerns and thinks it's unreasonable for people to self-regulate these limits and does not think DPW staff should be involved with this. Councilor Healey agreed with Councilor Harrington, sharing that the Swap Shop trailer is a very tight area and she doesn't think people will be cognizant of these new rules. Further, she stated that DPW staff were not hired to police the Swap Shop and she does not want to put this responsibility on them. Mr. Micali then said that based on this feedback, they will keep the Swap Shop closed and keep monitoring the situation based on conditions with the pandemic.