



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: May 17, 2023
Submitted by: Rick & Jacki Gagne
Department:

Date of Meeting: May 25, 2023

Speakers: Rick & Jacki Gagne

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 type="checkbox"/>
New Business:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Consent Agenda:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonpublic:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

TITLE OF ITEM

Permission for Use of Capped Landfill Perimeter at the Transfer Station for Honey Bee Apiary

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM

The Town Council to discuss and consider a request for the use of the perimeter of the capped landfill site at the Merrimack Transfer Station for use as a honey bee apiary.

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>Rick & Jacki Gagne</u>	Address:	<u>4 Bon Ave.</u>
Phone Number:		Email Address:	

APPROVAL

Town Manager: Yes No: Chair/Vice Chair: Yes No:

Hold for Meeting Date: _____

Rick and Jacki Gagne
4 Bon Ave
Merrimack, NH 03054
May 16, 2023

Merrimack Town Council

Town of Merrimack
6 Baboosic Lake Road
Merrimack, NH 03054

I am writing to ask your support for the use of the perimeter of the capped landfill site at the Merrimack Transfer Station for use as a honey bee Apiary.

Most of you know me from my years as a Captain on the Merrimack Fire Department. Another passion of mine is beekeeping and doing my part to help the bee population last for generations to come.

I am sure you are aware of the importance of bees not only for the environment but in our everyday lives. Did you know bees pollinate 1 in 3 bites of the food we eat? They are also essential to the health and prosperity of countless ecosystems.

I am asking for a few minutes of your time at the next council meeting at which time I will go into detail of what the use of this property will entail. Including the minimal to no impact to the employees working at this location or to the town.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick Gagne

Information for the Merrimack, NH Town Council

Re: Use of the perimeter of the capped landfill site at the Merrimack Transfer Station for use as a honey bee Apiary.

Requested by: Rick and Jacki Gagne



The environmental impact of bees is fascinating and so important. From the apples we get at Currier Orchards in the fall to the beautiful flowers we see, and so many things in between. Bees are needed. Feral honey bees are not common in this area. Due to our harsh winters it is common that they do not survive. Beekeepers are able to help the bees thrive in our local environment

Property under discussion



We would discuss with the transfer station manager what we are looking for and see if this area will meet our needs.

Some of those needs include: A relatively level surface. Year round access. As well as vehicle access to the hives location during spring, summer and fall.

Typically hives get moved at night however we realize that access to this property will be limited at that time. We will adjust to accommodate the transfer station hours.

It is our expectation that we will maintain the area surrounding the hives. It is our intention that no town employee should have to interact in or around the apiary

Examples of current apiaries

We currently have 3 separate apiary sites. One at our home and two other locations in which the home owners allow us the use of their property.

To date we have had no issues with property owners or with neighbors.

Our home



We are in our pool all summer without any interference or concern for the hives. Though they may roll their eyes at some of our dives off the board.

Our fence borders 3 separate neighbors. There have been no interactions or calls of concern.

2 homes over from us is another beekeeper with roughly the same amount of hives. There have been no issues within the neighborhood. Just beautiful flowers.

Host hive Property



The hives at the transfer station will be set up much like this. We do enclose the hives in a solar powered electric fence to prevent any hungry natives from visiting.



The hives do well in relative proximity to normal daily activities without causing issues. You can't see it in this picture but the homeowner's garden is between the driveway and the hives.

We're all abuzz about the Bees



This is what the inside of a bee box looks like. All of those frames are filled with honey and baby bees in the making.



The picture above shows some busy bees flying back into the hive after collecting nectar and pollen



And these girls are busy building up the honeycomb



The last picture on the right has the queen herself. Lucky for us this queen is marked with a white dot on her head (don't worry, its nontoxic and she doesn't notice)

Thank you for your time and consideration