

The 11 March 2017 Town Meeting was spirited and productive. The budget was approved with the customary voter input and several important land use ordinances were approved after lengthy discussions. We had a wonderful turnout for our return of the Town Meeting to the General Purpose Room in the Baldwin Community Center. We had displays by the Road Commission, Baldwin Fire and Rescue, the Historical Society, the Community Center Use Committee, and the Aging in Place advocates, the Grateful Undead. Finally, the North Baldwin Auxiliary put on a good feed. It was a bitter cold day for a Town Meeting so thank you to everyone that was able to attend.

We had several questions from citizens concerning the recent fee increases for disposal of bulky items at the Tri-Town Waste Facility. The Baldwin Selectmen have probably been remiss in not publicizing the fee increase. The new schedule went into effect 1 January this year along with strict enforcement of the policy requiring a current transfer station sticker on your vehicle (orange this year).

The new fee schedule came about after many months of discussion about the high costs of the bulky waste disposal. Like the electronic waste and paint disposal programs, this program is offered as an additional service to the three member towns but it is not a part of the core mission of the facility, the core mission being disposal of household waste and household recyclables. An analysis of the cost of tipping fees and truck costs showed bulky waste and construction debris to cost more to handle than was being collected for the service. There was also a sense that a number of house cleaning businesses were taking advantage of the relatively low fees charged by Tri-Town at the expense of Tri-Town's non-commercial customers. Therefore the new fees were designed to recoup the actual cost of the service. The new fee schedule is available on the Waste and Recycling page of our web-site and at this link. [New Disposal Fee Schedule](#).

Tri-Town is also expanding the no-fee battery recycling program so that it now includes single use and rechargeable batteries. Recycling these batteries minimizes their environmental impact.

Lithium Ion (Li-Ion)

Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd)

Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH)

Nickel zinc (Ni-Zn)

Small Sealed Lead Acid (SSLA/Pb)

Alkaline

Lithium Primary

Zinc Carbon

Button/Coin Cells

Just keep your batteries in a baggy and drop them off with the attendant.

Note: Automotive and large lead acid batteries are not accepted.

We thank everyone for their continued efforts to recycle a higher portion of their household waste. This has allowed us to hold the town's contributions to Tri-Town at last year's level.

Sincerely

Baldwin Board of Selectmen