

TOWN OF BARTLETT
OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN
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PRESS RELEASE

Back in the 1950's, the town made arrangements with the property owners (Ward) of what is now 1300 US Rt. 302 in Bartlett Village for disposal of trash on the property for which the town paid a lease fee to the property owner. This was a common way to dispose of trash in those days and the property owner was in charge of burning, burying and covering the trash periodically. This arrangement continued into the late 70's or early 80's when the site was closed according to the State regulations in effect at the time. The town then opened another landfill off of what is now Garland Ridge Road and after that was closed, the town then opened the current Bartlett Jackson Transfer Station in the early 90's.

Then came Tropical Storm Irene which caused the Saco River that runs by the old Ward landfill property to change course and during the years following, gradually eroded the area where the old landfill was, which caused debris to be exposed and subject to being carried down the river.

The town has been in discussions for several years with the current property owners, NH Dept. of Environmental Services, and legal counsel for all parties as to how to fix this situation and who is responsible for it. A meeting was held in Concord with the town and their attorney, the landowners with their attorney, a representative from the Attorney General's Office and representatives from the NH Department of Environmental Services, however, no agreement could be reached on who would pay for the necessary repairs. The parties have walked the site and were unable to come up with a viable solution. In the meantime, the town was the beneficiary of a \$200,000 environmental fund grant and has chosen to use this money to have an outside firm, Sanborn Head and Associates out of Concord, NH, to come up with a solution to the problem. They are currently gathering data to start the process to come up with a potential solution that all parties can agree to and how it will proceed from there.

Board of Selectmen
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