

North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee

Minutes: November 6th, 2023

Attendees: Darcy Cunningham, Laurie Gilman, Nicole Hewes, Lisa Belanger, Keith Bubblo, Jim Briggs, Mike Billon

1. Call to Order: 7:03 PM
2. Approval/Amendment of Minutes from October Meeting
 - a. Lisa moves to accept the minutes, Keith seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
3. Old Business
 - a. Public Input
 - a. None
 - b. New Member Update
 - a. Mike Billon officially approved as a new member of the Waste Reduction Committee
 - c. Plastics Subcommittee Report: Laurie, Darcy, Nicole
 - a. Recapping "Say No to Single-Use" Campaign
 - Graphics posted on town social media accounts
 - Will look to get stats from Debbie about citizen engagement with the content
 - b. Speaker Mike Belliveau (Defend Your Health)
 - Small, but dedicated group in attendance
 - Takeaways:
 - Fossil fuel industry looking to double-down in plastics investments to offset shift to electric cars
 - Non-cotton garments are shedding microplastics and toxic chemicals
 - Kids (0-5) particularly susceptible to these toxic chemicals
 - *Action Steps:* Work at the household level to reduce use of single-use plastics, synthetic fabrics
 - c. Discussion: How to increase attendance at speaker events
 - Piggyback on other events, like the Earth Day Fair
 - Pairing with other events at the Community Center
 - Possible connection with Royal River Conservation Trust
 - Linking up with the Prince Memorial Library to co-host events
 - Does PML ever offer hybrid events?
 - Can we host an event at a commercial venue?

- d. Food Waste Subcommittee Report: Lisa, Keith, Jim
 - a. Food Waste Efforts on pause due to student government efforts around Election Day
 - b. The Student Government sent out a survey about interest in composting to the Greeley student body.
 - Awaiting results from the survey
 - c. Making connections with members of the Cumberland Sustainability Committee
 - d. Greeley student advisers eager to set students up in a meeting with Suzanne Lee about her research work around composting efforts in schools
 - Original date postponed due to the events in Lewiston
 - e. Garbage to Garden collection for the school?
 - Cumberland is a curbside pick-up town
 - f. Possible curricular connections?
 - Garbage audit
 - Calculating plastic recycling rates/bottle usage

4. New Business

- a. Garbage to Garden Bins at Town Hall
 - i. Currently overflowing with Halloween pumpkins
 - Next year: Proactively advertise about bringing pumpkins to local farms
 - Could expand on this for other holiday items: turkey carcasses, Christmas trees
 - a. Sustainability Swaps for the holidays
 - ii. Data collection around compost bin usage in North Yarmouth
 - Jim will see if Garbage to Garden logs any data related to how full bins are when they are emptied each week
- b. Adding a Bottle Deposit Collection Bin at North Yarmouth Variety
 - i. North Yarmouth Variety will host our new bin next to the Paktek collection container
 - A few people are currently putting their bottles for return in the Paktek bin
 - a. Proceeds from returns will benefit the NY Fire Department
 - Jim will work to get the bin ready for North Yarmouth Variety
 - Also: Paktek recycling is gaining traction!

5. Adjournment: 8:02 PM

- a. Next Meeting: December 4th, 2023 @ 7:00