

North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee

Minutes: December 4th, 2023

Attendees: Darcy Cunningham, Laurie Gilman, Nicole Hewes, Keith Bubblo, Jim Briggs, Mike Billon, Andrea Berry

1. Call to Order: 7:03 PM
2. Approval/Amendment of Minutes from October Meeting
 - a. Laurie moves to accept the minutes, Jim seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
3. Old Business
 - a. Public Input
 - a. None
 - b. Plastics Subcommittee Report: Laurie, Darcy, Nicole
 - a. No new updates this month.
 - c. Food Waste Subcommittee Report: Lisa, Keith, Jim
 - a. Next speaker: Susanne Lee in conjunction with Prince Memorial Library
 - Will likely be held at WHCC
 - b. Discussion re: honorariums for speakers
 - We set aside \$400 in budget for the quarterly speaker series
 - Send to the individual for independent contractors
 - Send to the organization for individuals representing organizations
 - d. Update: Mike re: Christmas tree recycling
 - a. Reached out to several farms in the community about taking Christmas trees for animal consumption (goats)
 - 2 farms agreed and are excited about the prospect of being involved
 - Sunflower Farm Creamery & Ten Apple Farm
 - Farms declined due to worries about contamination from trees not being fully cleared off – tinsels, metal hooks, etc. An organic farm declined due to murkiness of whether or not pesticides are used on Christmas trees.
 - b. Mike will reach out to farms with updated information and to seek their suggestions for dates/times to avoid farms being inundated with trees.
 - c. Laurie motions to advance the Christmas tree recycling initiative pending farm-suggested dates/times for tree collection and incorporation of town logos. Darcy seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
 - Will also be sent to Debbie for official town review.

- e. Returnable Bottles Bin for NY Variety
 - a. The new returnable bottle bin is installed outside of NY Variety.
 - Returnables to benefit NY Fire Rescue
 - NY Fire Rescue will monitor and maintain the bin.
 - b. Will hopefully resolve the contamination issue of people putting returnables into the Paktek recycling container

4. New Business

- a. Committee Position/Roles Conversation
 - i. Stepping Back/Committee Resignations
 - Laurie has been elected co-chair of the Parks Committee
 - a. She feels she shouldn't be co-chair of two committees
 - b. Will stay on the Waste Reduction Committee
 - Darcy plans to resign from the Waste Reduction Committee due to overcommitments in her professional life
 - Both will resign from co-chair position as of the January meeting
 - ii. Discussion around Filling/Shuffling Positions
 - Chair Responsibilities
 - a. Develop agendas and post them 2 weeks beforehand
 - b. Coordinate/communicate with town
 - c. Facilitate meeting
 - d. Post and send minutes appropriately
 - iii. Subcommittee Assignments
 - Laurie will retain her spot on the plastics subcommittee
 - Mike will join the plastics subcommittee
- b. Keith - Updates re: Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG)
 - i. NY representatives will be scheduling an initial forum to be held in February.
 - Collect input from the community about concerns and to start an initial discussion about possible town action steps
 - Share results of a town emissions/climate data audit
 - ii. Will distribute a survey to NY citizens about climate vulnerabilities, concerns, personal actions taken etc.
 - iii. GPCOG conducts an assessment of town climate data, greenhouse gas emissions information
 - iv. GPCOG seeking input from committees about stakeholders to involve in the process
- c. Garbage to Garden bin at town events
 - i. No desire from town staff to hold a bin at WHCC for the relatively few times it is used.
 - ii. Public Works could possibly transfer a bin from the kiosk to WHCC as needed

- d. Mike - Allagash has suspended Paktek collection from 12/28 until March while the collection facility is moved.
 - i. May want to store these until it reopens
- e. Mike - Poo Bags
 - i. Has a conversation planned with Royal River Conservation Trust regarding sponsoring an eco-friendly dog poo bag station at one of our parks
 - ii. Also posted on the Parks agenda

5. Adjournment: 8:02 PM

- a. Next Meeting: January 8th, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

Action Items:

- Consider your interest in Chair/Secretary positions
- Add our ideas for GPCOG stakeholders to a list that Keith will start creating

Tabled for Next Meeting:

- How to coordinate/keep in touch with surrounding towns and their new regulations especially regarding plastic bags, compostable foodware at town events.
- Update re: plastic bag/wrap recycling at Hannaford