

North Yarmouth Recycling Committee

Minutes: December 6th, 2021

Attendees: Laurie Gilman, Scott Kaplan, Darcy Cunningham, Jim Briggs, Lisa Belanger

1. Call to Order: 7:02 PM

Welcome to Lisa Belanger, new committee member

2. Approval/Amendment of Minutes

- a. November minutes accepted unanimously

3. New Business

- a. Proposal to adopt Town Remote Participation Policy. Jim/Scott moved and seconded to adopt.
- b. Lisa asked what constituted something that was urgent or an emergency. Darcy noted that the policy addressed two issues, remote attendance for absent members, and also those occasions when an in person meeting isn't possible.
- c. Draven from Town office told Darcy that two other committees have voted to adopt and had their public hearings. Laurie read from recent Planning board minutes which indicate they tabled for further legal review (though already had one legal review) Vote: 5-0

4. Old Business

a. Fact Sharing for Topic Areas

- i. **(Paper)** Laurie had information that could be included in an upcoming town newsletter. Specific to this time of year, Laurie said that US waste production spikes during the holiday season, and offered some ways to improve things. Regarding wrapping paper, she had the advice "if you can rip it, you can recycle it" and that if the product doesn't try to open back up too much after being crumpled, it can be recycled.
- ii. **(Refuse & Reduce)** Scott offered a couple of ideas for refusing potential waste. Keeping a personal coffee cup would allow one to refuse "disposable" cups. It was also suggested that people have their own straws, so they can refuse plastic straws and reuse their own. Scott also recommended the use of refillable/reusable K-cup pods, and using refillable water bottles, or at least going with aluminum cans not plastic bottles. Lisa pointed out that Maine has recently passed legislation that allows for the cleaning and reuse of dishes and utensils used by take-out restaurants.
- iii. **(Plastics & Composting)** Jim passed out a paper with some information regarding composting on one side and plastics on the other. There was some discussion of the degree to which the composting kiosk is used and it was noted that the kiosk now has 3 bins, while it initially had only one.

- iv. **(Metals)** Nicole sent the following information: Aluminum is the most recycled material and the most profitable recyclable material. Aluminum can be recycled indefinitely without degrading. The energy it takes to make one new aluminum can is equivalent to the energy used to make 20 recycled cans.
- v. **(Reuse)** Jill sent an email suggesting a Toy & Book Exchange, either as a Fair activity or as an ongoing project. She also brought up the possibility of sending out a town-wide survey, and also the possibility of including a student member for the Recycling Committee (RC).
- vi. **(Glass)** Darcy said that the US is behind other countries in the recycling of glass, but that states with bottle return programs (like Maine) do much better.

b. Assignment of Topic Area for Lisa

- i. Lisa discussed having become a “Master Recycler” through an EcoMaine program. She expressed a desire to focus on “upstream” recycling (trying to eliminate waste so it won’t need to be recycled). Scott, who currently has the topics of both “reduce” and “refuse” said he would be happy to give “reduce” to Lisa. That was agreed upon.

c. Next Steps Toward Recycling Fair

- i. Date: Earth Day, Friday April 22
- ii. Location: Community Center.
 - 1. Having toured the facility before the meeting it was agreed that there was plenty of space.
- iii. The Fair is the responsibility of the RC, so other groups and organizations will need to be enlisted by the RC (and Lisa Thompson, Town Employee) to try to fill the space and get our message across. One goal that was suggested was to engage young people. It was suggested that we enlist EcoMaine for assistance.

5. Adjournment

- a. Next Meeting: Monday, January 3rd @ 7:00 PM

To-Dos:

- 1. RC members should communicate via email over the next couple of weeks to determine what form of the fair will take, and what major objectives are to be achieved.
- 2. Find out what happens to plastic bags that are dropped off at Hannaford.