

North Yarmouth Recycling Committee

Minutes: November 14th, 2022

Attendees: Scott Kaplan, Darcy Cunningham, Laurie Gilman, Nicole Hewes, Lisa Belanger, Debbie Grover, Jim Briggs, Andrea Berry, special guest Vanessa Berry

1. Call to Order: 6:36 PM
2. Approval/Amendment of Minutes
 - a. Laurie moved to accept as written, Darcy seconded; passed unanimously
3. Old Business
 - a. Public Input
 - i. None
 - b. Feedback/Review of Plastic-Free Event
 - i. Website updated to include a “Plastic Free Resources” page with our Sustainability Swaps
 - c. Trunk or Treat Review/Feedback
 - i. Event was very busy!
 - ii. Clementine station was popular and families enjoyed the novelty
 - iii. Future Ideas: “Zero Waste Wizard” or recycling truck design for the trunk
 - iv. Being there and getting visibility is the goal. We should keep participating in the future.
 - d. “EPR for Packaging in Maine” – Presentation by Vanessa Berry, Sustainable Maine Outreach Coordinator at NRCM (National Resources Council of Maine) [vberry@nrcm.org]
 - i. Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging Law passed in Maine in 2021
 - Helps to make recycling more efficient and encourages producers to create and design sustainable packaging that is easily recyclable
 - Program will be overseen by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection
 - A cost schedule for producers will be created and companies will pay fees based on the recyclability of their packaging materials
 - Municipalities and recycling facilities collect data and then will be able to receive reimbursement for the recycling costs of the items created by producers
 - ii. Reimbursements for municipalities predicted to begin in 2025
 - iii. Role for our Recycling Committee will be education around the EPR Law
 - EPR law could also make educating about recycling easier because the process will hopefully be simpler and more streamlined as producers make more sustainable choices to avoid incurring additional EPR fees
 - Should result in better labeling and less recycling contamination
 - Email newsletter list for Maine EPR updates: mainepackagingepr@maine.gov
 - Upcoming meetings throughout early 2023 will hash out additional EPR details

e. Expanded Charter/Mission Discussion

- i. Desire to broaden name to encompass a larger scope than just recycling
- ii. Name Change Brainstorming:
 - Waste Zero Committee or Zero Waste Committee
 - Scott - Zero Waste is aspirational, should we be changing name to something that is impossible to achieve? Will people discount the name if they're on the fence about recycling?
 - Recycling & Waste Reduction Committee
 - North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee
 - Slogan Idea: Leading the Way to Zero Waste
 - Idea for mission statement (modeled after South Portland's mission statement):
 - The purpose of the Waste Zero Committee is to assist the town in transitioning to a zero waste community by serving in an advisory capacity to the town, examining opportunities to minimize waste, and promoting best practices in how the community consumes and disposes of goods and services.
 - Darcy - Do we want to add renewable energy sources?
 - i. Laurie - This may be broadening the scope too much
- iii. Name Change Proposal:
 - Name Change: Waste Reduction Committee
 - Slogan: Leading the Way to Zero Waste
 - Mission Statement: The purpose of the Waste Zero Committee is to advise and assist the town in transitioning to a zero waste community by examining opportunities to minimize waste and promoting best practices in how the community consumes and disposes of goods and services.

4. Tabled/Future Topics

- a. Garbage to Garden bins and second possible kiosk for more convenient locations

5. Adjournment

- a. Adjournment: 8:05 PM
- b. Next Meeting: Monday, December 5th

6. Held Until Later Meeting:

- a. HS Liaison update?
- b. Sustainability contact at Allagash Brewery...explore the possibility of setting-up a PakTech plastic handle drop-box in NY. (Lisa)
- c. EcoMaine school grants

To-Dos:

- Review Name Change Proposal and come prepared to discuss at December Meeting