

North Yarmouth Recycling Committee

Minutes: December 5th, 2022

Attendees: Darcy Cunningham, Laurie Gilman, Nicole Hewes, Lisa Belanger, Jim Briggs, Andrea Berry, Scott Kaplan

1. Call to Order: 7:02 PM
2. Approval/Amendment of Minutes
 - a. Laurie moved to accept as written, Lisa seconded; passed unanimously
3. Old Business
 - a. Public Input
 - i. None
 - b. Updated Name, Slogan, Mission
 - i. Name: Waste Reduction Committee, An Advisory Committee to the Select Board

Mission: The purpose of the Waste Reduction Committee is to advise and assist the town in transitioning toward a zero-waste community, examining and highlighting opportunities to minimize waste in North Yarmouth. The committee will educate and promote regarding best practices in how our community consumes and disposes of goods and services via events, social media, classes, etc.

- Discussion
 - Jim: Zero-waste is a largely unattainable goal in the short-term. Should we include it in our mission?
 - Scott: Didn't want to be the "zero-waste" committee. Having it in the mission feels aspirational.
- Updated Mission: The purpose of the Waste Reduction Committee is to advise and assist the town in transitioning toward a zero-waste community, examining and highlighting opportunities to minimize waste in North Yarmouth. The committee will ~~educate and promote regarding best practices in~~ for how our community consumes and disposes of goods and services. ~~via events, social media, classes, etc.~~
- Motion - Lisa moves to accept mission statement and committee name, Laurie seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
- Motion - Lisa moves to submit our new name and mission statement and committee name to the Select Board for consideration at their December meeting. Jim seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

c. Further Feedback & Review of Plastic-Free Event

- i. Debbie sent additional feedback about the Plastic-Free event, including social media stats about our Simple Sustainability Swaps
- ii. Consider going back through the Town's pages on Facebook and Instagram to see/analyze the engagement to inform future social media campaigns

d. Sustainability Contact at Allagash Brewery - Lisa

- i. Allagash Brewery has an extensive recycling program. Do we want to create a place to collect some smaller items that can't be recycled otherwise?
 - Natural cork, wine bottle screwcaps, wine bottle cages, bottle caps, pillows and bubble wrap
- ii. PakTech Box Idea - They offer boxes to collect PakTech toppers at different locations. Lisa proposes that Trudy Bird's Pub be asked to host a box for North Yarmouth.
 - Motion: Darcy moves that the committee endorses Lisa to approach Trudy Bird's about hosting a PakTech topper box. Laurie seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
 - Amended Motion, following suggestion from Andrea about North Yarmouth Variety Store as a place that sells products with PakTech toppers and perhaps a better central hub: Darcy moves that the committee endorses Lisa to approach North Yarmouth Variety, Trudy Bird's, and other local businesses about hosting a PakTech topper box. Laurie seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

4. New Business

a. Textile/Household Soft Good Recycling Bin - Apparel Impact

- i. Darcy had a conversation with Apparel Impact about their textile recycling program
 - They provide the bin, installation, advertising, collection, management
 - They collect materials once a week. Materials go to a warehouse in NH and they remove quality items that are usable. Items are made available to people for free at periodic "sales" at various locations. Things that can't be reused get sent to a US-based clothing recycler.
 - They take clothing, hats, accessories, shoes, sheets, towels in usable or non-usable condition.
 - Other bins have been installed in Yarmouth and Freeport.
 - Motion: Lisa moves that we move forward with obtaining and installing an Apparel Impact bin in North Yarmouth. Scott seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

b. School Connections - Jim

- i. Students are engaged on this topic – how can we reach them? Jim will connect with a teacher contact who led the MIW Green Team in the past.

5. Adjournment

- a. Adjournment: 8:04 PM
 - b. Next Meeting: Monday, January 9th
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To-Dos:

- Consider committee priorities and come prepared to discuss at January meeting