

North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee

Minutes: May 1st, 2023

Attendees: Darcy Cunningham, Laurie Gilman, Nicole Hewes, Lisa Belanger, Andrea Berry, Jim Briggs, Keith Bubblo (guest and candidate to join our committee)

1. Call to Order: 6:36 PM
 2. Approval/Amendment of Minutes
 - a. Accept minutes from April meeting; Laurie motions, Lisa seconds. Approved, with Jim abstaining since he wasn't in attendance
 3. Old Business
 - a. Public Input
 - a. None.
 - b. *Guest:* Susanne Lee, Faculty Fellow at the Sen. George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions at the University of Maine
 - a. Presentation: "Ending Food Waste in Maine"
 - b. Susanne is a North Yarmouth resident and a potential resource for our committee
 - Hosted a "Food Waste Challenge" that Lisa participated in
- Presentation Notes:
- Regionalization may be a key factor in reducing food waste in cost effective manner
 - 15-25% of community members need to be involved to "break even" in costs
 - Elem. schools as an entry point → large volume, and kids become change-makers
 - Share baskets in schools
 - Sorting stations for separating different components of the meal
 - School Nutrition Directors as potential school entry points
 - Food waste heavy and expensive to discard [unifying issue across political spectrum]
 - In Maine, food makes up the largest part (30%) of our solid waste stream
 - Average US family throws away \$1800 worth of food a year
 - "Best buy" date labeling estimated to cost \$1.8 billion per year
 - Food Waste Organizations / Strategies
 - Garbage to Garden
 - Agri-Cycle → broken down by anaerobic digestion or at composting facilities; becomes renewable energy/biogas
 - Backyard composting
 - [Sample story from Kennebunk](#) about a town-initiated effort
 - Reduce - Recover - Recycle [composting not at the top]
 - Food sharing → Food pantry in town

- “Compostable” alternatives to single-use plastic
 - Reduce as the priority strategy
 - “Perfect produce” standards lead to food being rejected from stores
 - [Harvest Maine](#) spreads (Yarmouth); upcycled food
 - Big 6 Solutions to End Food Waste in Maine
 1. Enable tracking and measuring of food usage
 2. Create statewide “food rescue” system
 3. Educate consumers of all ages about food waste
 4. Build Maine’s food processing infrastructure
 5. Promote increased food donation
 6. Remove food waste from landfill
- *All of these solutions have “Triple Bottom Line Benefits”
- a. Profit - save or make money
 - b. People
 - c. Planet

Potential Next Step: Waste analysis using a tool from Susanne’s organization

- c. New Committee Member Update
 - a. Keith Bubblo in attendance tonight as a candidate member for the committee
 - b. Official process will begin with generating questions for an interview process
 - Subcommittee will form to facilitate this process (Laurie & Darcy)
- d. Junk in the Trunk Update
 - a. Sunday, May 7th; 9-1 PM
 - b. Ice cream truck in attendance from 10-1 PM
- e. Patty Wight - MPBN
 - a. Possible interview with a committee member about food waste in their home
 - b. Darcy will follow up with her to see if Lisa could do this interview next week

4. New Business

- a. July meeting moved from the 3rd to the 10th
- b. Garbage to Garden
 - i. Will bring a barrel over for summer market and return to kiosk for Friday AM
 - ii. Possible second location at the church at 115 and 231 intersection

5. Adjournment: 8:00 PM

- a. Next Meeting: June 5th @ 7:00 PM
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To-Dos:

- Share ideas that were sparked by Susanne's conversation by responding to the minutes email