

North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee

Minutes: September 11th, 2023

Attendees: Darcy Cunningham, Laurie Gilman, Nicole Hewes, Jim Briggs, Lisa Belanger, Andrea Berry, Keith Bubblo, Mike Billon (guest)

1. Call to Order: 7:03 PM
2. Approval/Amendment of Minutes from July Meeting
 - a. Jim moves to accept the minutes, Keith seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
3. Old Business
 - a. Public Input
 - a. Mike Billon visiting as a guest. Has applied to join the Waste Reduction Committee.
 - b. Tuesday Market Recap
 - a. We had a presence at each market this summer.
 - b. Lisa - We should work to try to reduce single-use plastic at the food truck vendors.
 - Try to set up a policy with Jackie before next year's market vendor sign-ups.
 - c. Need to review and revise our recycling game.
 - c. Plastic Subcommittee Report: Laurie, Darcy, Nicole
 - a. Plastic-Free October Campaign
 - Focus: Single-Use Plastic
 - Send content to Debbie for Notes from Town Hall, Instagram, Facebook
 - Have a mini call to action on each piece of content to encourage citizen participation/discussion
 - Can also share anything that the Town posts on its social media accounts
 - Track how many times you reduced a piece of single-use plastic
 - Possible raffle for participants to document their actions
 - Idea: Gift card to GoGo Refill
 - Speaker Series for October:
 - Representative from Allagash to discuss their recycling program
 - d. Food Waste Subcommittee Report: Lisa, Keith, Jim
 - a. MSAD51 Connection
 - Lisa now working at MSAD51
 - Connected with Arlene at Greeley who spearheads environmental efforts
 - Environmental Committee is being reinvigorated at the school

- Food waste/composting is currently not happening in MSAD51, but interest exists in getting that up and running
 - Pandemic stalled efforts in this area
 - Lisa may look to attend one of the student committee meetings
- Also possible to maybe have a student or two working with our committee as an independent study project
 - Could a student outline the process/work through the steps that would be needed to get a school composting program running?
- b. Additional connection point: Sustainable Cumberland group
- c. New school board member has a conservation background – potential advocate
 - Consider attending a Board meeting
- e. Waste Committee Reduction Committee Sign
 - a. Project is complete. Haven't picked it up yet.

4. New Business

- a. New Member Application
 - i. Motion to designate Laurie and Darcy as interview committee.
 - Jim moves, Keith seconds, motion passes unanimously.
- b. Select Board update re: Automated Trash Collection
 - i. Timeline: April or May 2024
 - ii. Purchase of the new tote bins was recently approved (64 and 48 gallon).
 - Grant money funding - happening in collaboration with Falmouth and Windham.
 - Will be both trash and recycling bins.
 - Lid color will differentiate trash and recycling bins.
 - iii. Will need a group of volunteers to help assemble the educational information.
 - Bins will be delivered to citizens with educational info about the changes attached.
 - Should connect with Falmouth to learn from them about what goes well – they will roll out ahead of North Yarmouth.
 - iv. Gather questions that we have about the change.
 - Will it be possible to track the change in recycling rates after this changeover?
 - What will everyone do with their old trash and recycling bins?

5. Other Business

- a. North Yarmouth Climate Action Plan
 - i. In collaboration with GPCOG (Greater Portland Council of Governments)
 - ii. Select Board asks EDSC, Waste Reduction Committee, and Parks Committee to send 1-2 representatives to a committee that will work on developing the Climate Action Plan and building resilience and sustainability within North Yarmouth.

- iii. Tasks: Vulnerability Assessments, Community Engagement, Providing Feedback and Input on the Climate Action Plan that will be written by GPCOG
- iv. Committee nominates Keith to be our representative for this effort

6. Adjournment: 8:05 PM

- a. Next Meeting: October 2nd @ 7:00 PM

To-Dos: