

North Yarmouth Waste Reduction Committee

Minutes: January 8th, 2024

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

1. Call to Order: 7:03 PM
2. Approval/Amendment of Minutes from December Meeting
 - a. Jim moves to accept the minutes, Keith seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
3. Old Business
 - a. Public Input
 - a. None
 - b. Positions in the Waste Reduction Committee
 - a. Darcy is resigning from the committee, Laurie is relinquishing her co-chair position
 - New Co-chairs: Keith Bubblo & Nicole Hewes
 - Darcy motions to elect Nicole & Keith as co-chairs. Jim seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
 - b. New Secretary: Mike Billon
 - Darcy motions to elect Mike as secretary. Laurie seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
 - c. Plastic Subcommittee Report
 - a. Mike will join the plastics subcommittee.
 - d. Food Waste Subcommittee Report
 - a. Lisa had a meeting with Scott Poulin (Director of Facilities and Operations in MSAD51), Arlene Sagan (Environmental Club Leader), Don Foster (Facilities Director at the high school) to discuss environmental (composting and recycling) initiatives in the district
 - b. 2/10 - First meeting will be held with a group of staff and students
 - Kathryn Oak from EcoMaine will be a guest teacher
 - Plan is to discuss strengthening/restarting the recycling program in the district (addressing definitions of single-sort)
 - A district composting effort will be discussed at next monthly meeting in February
 - Garbage to Garden will be the speaker
 - Will determine whether to pilot a program at a single school or start whole district
 - Susanne Lee has offered support and the chance to have a research study conducted at the school as the project unfolds

- c. May also look to involve a student intern assist with this project and/or our committee
 - Andrea will look into whether we could have a student serve as a Committee member

- d. Speaker Series:

- Lisa met with Kelly Greenlee and will host an event in conjunction with PML on March 9th from 12 - 1:30 PM
- Susanne Lee will be the speaker
- Idea: Bring your own lunch and model a waste-sorting process
- Serve beverages and desserts

- e. Update: Mike - Dog Poo Bags

- f. Update: Mike - X-mas Tree Disposal Update

- a. Mike waiting to hear back from the farms about the quantities received
- b. Laurie: Sunflower Farm Creamery posted on FB a message thanking residents for the trees

- g. Update: Keith - GPCOG

- a. Stakeholder identification process is ongoing
 - North Yarmouth Business Association website lists businesses by category
- b. Community forum still in the works; will be at the end of February

4. New Business

- a. Waste Reduction Budget due by February 8th

- b. Public Accessibility of Meetings:

- i. Option to meet and broadcast/livestream our meetings or events periodically
- ii. Possibly consider for speakers
- iii. Select Board is looking for ways to broaden public access to meetings. Discussing policy possibilities where a resident could request a specific meeting be livestreamed.

- c. Andrea - Stay tuned for more updates about the shift to mechanized waste collection

- i. Try to make a push for composting to coincide with the rollout of the new process
- ii. Try to slip composting information into the mailings/educational materials that will be sent out to residents ahead of/during the transition

5. Adjournment: 8:02 PM

- a. Next Meeting: February 5th, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

