

**New London Waste Reduction Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 19, 2023**

**Call to order** – Chairman Liz Meller called the meeting to order at 10:00 am

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Liz Meller, Maureen Prohl, Jerry Coogan, Gerry Gold

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Joy Kubit

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bill Helm, Selectman; Bob Harrington, Director of Department of Public Works; Karen Ebel, New London resident and Representative in NH House of Representatives.

**MEETING MINUTES:** Minutes for meeting of January 5, 2022, were unanimously approved.

**PROJECTS:**

- **Planning for Selectmen Meeting on 1/26/23:** Liz Meller stated that preparation for the Committee's presentation to the 1/26/23 meeting of the Selectmen was the primary purpose of this meeting. Kim Hallquist will assist setting up any PowerPoint charts at the meeting.

Bill Helm has drafted a warrant article for Town Meeting in March which would appropriate \$12,000 for the purpose of Waste Reduction Education (\$4,500) and Food Waste Composting Trial Programs (\$7,500). The funds, once approved, will become available with the Fiscal Year starting June 30, 2023.

Bill explained that Liz Meller, as Committee Chairman, will "present and justify" the proposed warrant article to the Selectmen for their approval. Once approved by Selectmen, the proposed warrant will be reviewed by the Budget Committee and either approved or rejected prior to being placed on the Town Meeting agenda.

Maureen will describe for the Selectmen the on-going food waste pilot program and its planned transition to Phase 2. Maureen reported that as of 1/15/23 a total of 1.58 tons of food waste has been diverted from haulage to landfill. With the expansion of the Food Waste Compost Project from 20 to 160 households, it was decided to refer to the expanded project as Phase 2.

Bob Harrington emphasized the importance of on-going public education to avoid contamination of recyclable wastes.

- **Styrofoam/Polystyrene and Clothing Collection:** Joy reported that polystyrene foam could be stored in large bags available from Amazon website. The cost is 10 bags for \$100. However, enabling foam collection and storage at the Transfer Station is an unsolved problem. Bob said perhaps a bin similar to and located near the clothing collection bin would work. Bob Harrington notes that collection of used, clean clothing earns revenue at \$0.10 per pound, which funds support the food waste compost project.

Joy said two foam collection days will be held in Hanover and Lebanon. These are:

- Hanover, Saturday Feb 11, 10am-12pm, Hanover Public Works, 194 Lebanon St,
- Lebanon, Saturday, April 16, 9-11am behind Jakes Coffee, 227 Mechanic St.

SEE: [sustainablehanovernh.org/](http://sustainablehanovernh.org/) and [sustainablelebanon.wordpress.com/](http://sustainablelebanon.wordpress.com/)

- **Town Website Improvements:** Maureen reported that Emily Hardy is ready to add "Trash Tips" to the Town website. Emily has improved the webpage for the Waste Reduction Committee including a table of disposable/recyclable items.

### **NEW BUSINESS/OTHER**

- **NH State Legislation and Planning:** Karen Ebel, our local NH House Representative, is chair of the NH Solid Waste Working Group: SEE: [www.des.nh.gov/about/boards-and-committees/new-hampshire-solid-waste-working-group](http://www.des.nh.gov/about/boards-and-committees/new-hampshire-solid-waste-working-group). Karen described 3 bills she has introduced in the NH House:
  - HB462: a \$2-million appropriation targeting food waste reduction and diversion.
  - HB300: prohibiting the disposal of certain food waste.
  - HB465: restricting use of PFAS substances in certain consumer products.

SEE: [www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill\\_status/advanced.aspx](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/advanced.aspx)

Karen is asking New London Select Board to send a letter of support for HB462. Bill Helm said he expected the Selectmen would provide a letter of support.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Small Project Grants:**
  - Jerry Coogan has talked with NH DES about small project grants from the Grass Roots Fund. SEE: [grassrootsfund.org/grant-programs](http://grassrootsfund.org/grant-programs)
  - Maureen and Nancy at DPW are working on signage grants from NHtheBeautiful.org
- **Handout literature:** Maureen and Jerry are preparing a 1-page Waste Reduction paper handout with a QR-code link to more information. The page could be distributed with motor vehicle registration, at the Transfer Station; at Town Meeting; the Library; and other locations. A "Trash Tips" 1-page handout is also in preparation.
- **Local Advertising for Waste Reduction:** Advertising is on hold, awaiting Town Meeting Warrant Article passage and July 1st fiscal year.
- **Kearsarge Regional School District waste reduction projects:** Maureen has talked with the Middle and High School faculty coordinators for 2023 Earth Day (April 21-22). Possible event programs could be at the New London Library for adults; and school program based on student audits of school food waste. Maureen and Olivia at UVLSRPC are developing a list of possible student projects.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Next Waste Reduction Committee scheduled for February 2, 2023 at 10:00AM. at Town Offices meeting room.

**Motion to adjourn:** Meeting adjourn at 11:00 am.  
Respectfully submitted by Gerard Gold,  
Town of New London