



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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New London Waste Reduction Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 21, 2022 10:00 AM

Call to order – Called to meeting to order at 10:05am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Meller, Maureen Prohl, Gerry Gold, Joy Kubit

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jerry Coogan

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Helm, Selectman; N Resident: Karen Ebel

MEETING MINUTES: Approved meeting minutes from 9/30/2022

PROJECTS:

- **Pilot Project: Food Composting at NL Transfer Station:** Maureen said she has selected 20 participants from 33 applicants for pilot program. With the goal of a participant group representative of Town family units, Adam Ricker sent Maureen New London demographics from the 2020 census data. The selection represents NWSE geographic parts of Town.
 - Sizes of New London households were:
 - 44% couples;
 - 34% single person;
 - 9% three person;
 - 13% four or more.
 - The Pilot Project total of 20 household will be:
 - 9 households: couples
 - 9 households: three or more persons
 - 2 households: single person.

Maureen has prepared for participants a document "Mini Training on Composting Food Scraps" which includes instructions and photos of approved handling of food wastes, including meats and bones.

- Each household was given a 5-gallon bucket and two 8-gal Biobags (a specific commercial brand of bio-degradable food waste bag). Meat and fats and bones and "compostable utensils" can be included.
- Weekly, participants bring their 8-gal BioBags and drop them into the 64-gal bins.
- Weekly, Renewal Compost collects food waste bags from the bins, as required by NH State law.

Maureen suggested that the Pilot Project run for 3-4 months, with data collection informing the preparation of a Warrant Article in December for Town Meeting in March 2023. The aim is for a "net neutral" budget whereby costs of the food waste program at least match savings to the Town by reduced trash tonnage into landfill.

- **Other Food Waste item: Colby Sawyer College and New London Hospital:** Jerry Coogan sent an email saying: In the past, Colby Sawyer College composted its food waste material but ceased due to animal intervention. CSC wants to resume composting and will probably use Casella. Jerry also reported interviewing Kurt Croft at New London Hospital: Regarding composting, NLH has a super large garbage disposal unit that grounds up all the food waste and puts the material into the Town's wastewater treatment system. Jerry asked Kirk and NLH consider options regarding reducing waste. Jerry suggests inviting Kurt to a meeting of the Town's Waste Reduction Committee.
- **Polystyrene and Plastics:** Joy and NL Waste Reduction Committee will postpone further discussion to 2023. Joy said Guilford is at present only NH location for polystyrene compacting. For overall waste reduction practices, Guilford recycling did win an award from NH the Beautiful for its public information methods.

NH the Beautiful <https://nhthebeautiful.org/who-we-are/> is a non-profit sponsored by NH beverage and food industries. It offers discounts for facility signs, sandwich boards to hold signs, and waste bins.

Joy shared information from Restaurant Plastic pilot survey, developed by NH Plastic Working Group. Long range goal is to reduce single use plastics. Joy plans to reach out to either Grounds or Blue Loon where she knows owners. She asked committee members for help with any restaurant where they know owner/manager.

Jerry Coogan reported in an email that Kurt Croft at New London Hospital told Jerry that the hospital participates in a limited plastic recycling effort. They do not recycle # 4 plastics, now being done by Rotary.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER

- **Public Education for recycling and waste reduction:** Maureen said she went to Hopkinton to attend a waste reduction presentation. She heard good ideas for public awareness and education, including a conversation with Andrea Hollinger Folsum of Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA): www.nrrarecycles.org
Committee members and Karen Ebel then noted and discussed a variety of ways to achieve public awareness and participation. Karen said NH-DES is just starting a waste education program. It is publishing a 58-page manual for municipal composting
- Karen stated: Signage is key. Others emphasized the Town website home page and FaceBook page with links to an informative DPW page with clear, brief answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on recycling and disposal. Citizens are looking for this information and not now finding it. Linkages to NRRA information was suggested. Another idea is to provide waste reduction information as a handout when residents register their cars each year. Basically: more and often repeated clear information is needed. Lessons can be learned by looking at Guilford NH website and others. SEE: Guilford NH www.gilfordnh.org/ & www.gilfordnh.org/recycleright

- **Agenda for Next Committee Meeting Nov 3rd:** Liz concluded the meeting with three points:
 - 1) Education should be the focus of discussion
 - 2) To schedule a meeting with the Transfer Station crew, Joy was asked to talk with Bob Harrington.
 - 3) Maureen and Karen will look at the Guilford and Grantham NH Town websites for ideas on public awareness of "How to recycle."

NEXT MEETING DATE: Next Waste Reduction Committee scheduled for November 3, 2022 at 10:00am in Syd Crook Conference Room

Motion to adjourn: Meeting adjourn at 11:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Gold
Town of New London