



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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New London Waste Reduction Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday, December 1, 2022 10:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Liz Meller called to meeting to order at 10:00am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Liz Meller, Maureen Prohl, Joy Kubit, Jerry Coogan, Gerry Gold.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Helm, Selectman; Linda Magoon, Granite State News Collaborative
(See: www.collaborativenh.org/)

Chairman Liz Meller opened the meeting with a moment of silent reflection for Doug Lyon and Peggy Brown, recently deceased.

Journalist Linda Magoon introduced herself and said she is reporting on compost issues for Granite State News Collaborative.

MEETING MINUTES: Committee members approved meeting minutes from 11/17/22

PROJECTS:

- **Compost Pilot Project:** Maureen reported at the Transfer Station Kenny keeps records of participation. This week a second household has withdrawn from the Pilot Project. Both withdrawals have been families of four persons. Wanting explanations, Maureen contacted the most recent household. The wife/mother of the household said careful handling of food waste takes too much time despite her initial motivation to "be a good citizen." Maureen will try to find a replacement participant from a family household, which is not easy when 66% of New London households are two or one persons. She also said that Kenny Waldo, Transfer Station Supervisor, tells her of residents asking him how they can get into the project. One complaint from participants: Bio-Bag failures making a mess. Project results to date: Renewal Compost reports that during first 6 weeks, they have collected 1,377 lbs (0.68 tons) of food waste from the collection bin at DPW's Transfer Station. This is considered a good start given the small number of participants in the Pilot Project.
- **Waste reduction information:** Maureen talked with Nancy Barthol, DPW Administrative Assistant. Nancy is reviewing the Transfer Station page on the Town web site and has prioritized checking links and replacing the initial logo. She welcomes any help that we are able to provide. Committee discussion noted that Guilford, Lebanon and Grantham town websites could be used as role models. Finding volunteer technical assistance from KRHS or Colby Sawyer interns to work with Nancy was discussed.
- A brief discussion on Town of New London website and Municipal Matters -e-newsletter noted that 900 residents from total 1601 households are signed to receive email notification of each issue of Municipal Matters. Actual "hits" and readership are not known. Municipal Matters is an important way to inform residents but should be supplemented by news in Intertown Record and other publications.
- Improved signage at the Transfer Station: Liz showed examples of large, concise, colorful signs that could be posted at the Transfer Station. Moving signs from time to time will attract

more attention. Joy reported that Kearsarge Climate Action (KCA) is talking with Hannaford markets about food waste collection and composting.

- Joy reported that the Center for Eco-Technology, based in Springfield, MA, is asking KCA to help with a possible grant project which would work with area restaurants, schools, and the hospital on a waste reduction project during 2023-24. (SEE: www.centerforecotechnology.org/)

Jerry Coogan, the Town's representative to the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC), made phone call to Olivia Uyizeye, a planner at UVLSRPC, asking for her ideas of Town-level techniques to improve public awareness of waste reduction and recycling. Olivia said "the sky's the limit" on public information and that a common strategy is working with schools to educate students who then educate their parents and friends.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Waste Reduction Committee scheduled for 12/15/22 at 10:00AM

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Committee members agreed to adjourn at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted 12/5/22 by
Gerry Gold, Secretary
Waste Reduction Committee