



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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New London Waste Reduction Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday, December 15, 2022 10:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Liz Meller called to meeting to order at 9:58am

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joy Kubit

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Helm, Selectman

MEETING MINUTES: Committee members approved meeting minutes from 12/1/22

PROJECTS:

- **Food composting pilot project:** Maureen reported that the Compost Pilot Project is back to 20 households. But the 4-person households that resigned have been replaced by 2-person households. After 8 weeks, a total of 0.9 tons have been removed from landfill hauling. Maureen's survey of participants found consistent enthusiasm for recycling food wastes and avoiding landfill with only minor concern for lack of cost savings.
- **Styrofoam collection and recycling:** Maureen said New London should have an annual day for collection of Styrofoam (polystyrene). Public awareness would be necessary to motivate residents both to collect their polystyrene and then to bring the foam to the collection location. Maureen would be willing to truck the gathered foam to Guilford, NH, for disposal.
- **Waste Reduction Education and DPW Web pages:** Nancy Barthol, DPW Administrative Assistant, told Maureen that the DPW webpage needs major revisions. She is frequently distracted by calls from citizens asking how to dispose of various materials and that a better webpage might be a better way to provide information. Looking for website design talent, Maureen has contacted Kearsarge Regional High School's "Extended Learning Opportunities Coordinator." She was told that a graphics design project might be done as either a Senior Project or an as extra-credit project. Talking also with staff at Colby-Sawyer College, she was told that New London Town ought to hire a website designer because all of the Town's website needs improvement. Jerry Coogan observed that many towns in New Hampshire and other states have long-term website design and maintenance contracts with CivicPlus, a Kansas-based company. Jerry Coogan said Prof. Jim Killarney at Colby-Sawyer College suggested that a college student internship or "Capstone Project" might be a way to develop a public education strategy for the Town's waste reduction needs. A paid internship would require a \$1,500 stipend. Perhaps the project could produce useful poster displays for public education.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER:

- **Warrant Article Preparation:** Bill is preparing a warrant article for Town Meeting in March. The warrant article will recognize that cost savings from the food waste composting

project should not be expected even if participation increases to 160 households, equal to about 10 percent of Town households. The draft budget request will be in the range of \$5,000-to-\$10,000 as a line item in the DPW budget. Bill emphasized that the budget request must be concise and easily explained in terms of a) tipping fees trade-offs and public education expenses. Bill agreed that costs of placing weekly advertisements could be included in the Warrant if clearly justified as public education. Jerry Coogan agreed to contact Howard Hoke at the Kearsarge Shopper about the costs of running weekly small "Trash Tips" advertisement.

- **Wheelabrator waste-to-energy costs v. landfill:** Liz learned from talking with Bradford (NH) transfer station staff that instead of hauling to landfill Bradford hires Naughton to haul trash to Wheelabrator trash-to-energy incinerator in Penacook NH. An email from DPW Bob Harrington noted that New London DPW had done a comparison a few years ago and found landfill much less costly. Until the Wheelabrator plant in Claremont NH closed in the early 2000s, NL had hauled waste there. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that Selectmen and DPW should look at current cost comparisons. Bill Helm agrees to initiate that process.
- **Earth Day 2023:** Joy noted that April 22, 2023, is Earth Day and an opportunity to public education for waste reduction and recycling. Committee members discussed planning possible Town events on that day. Joy said Ten Towns, a collaborative volunteer group focused on reducing plastic wastes could help with a library presentation.
- **NRRA and NH DES grant projects:** Bill will invite Kim Hallquist to the Committee's 1/5/23 meeting to talk about grant writing. The deadline is January 16, 2023 for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recycling grant opportunities funded by the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Those are large grants of between \$250,000 and \$2 million to improve consumer education and outreach on waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting. Maureen was contacted by a person in Hopkinton who suggested that a grant for regional waste reduction would make sense.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Next Waste Reduction Committee scheduled for January 5, 2023 at Town Offices.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Committee members agreed to adjourn at 11:02 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Gold, Secretary
Waste Reduction Committee