

**New London Waste Reduction Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 16, 2023**

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

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bill Helm, Selectman; Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator; Bob Harrington, Director, New London Department of Public Works.

**MEETING MINUTES:** Minutes for meeting of February 2, 2023, were unanimously approved.

**PROJECTS:**

- **Compost Trial Project:** Maureen estimated total food waste now at c.2 tons diverted from land fill
- **Paper waste/recycling issues:** Bob Harrington reported "bad news." Prices received for waste/recycling of paper and cardboard have plummeted because of an over-abundance of both. Waste Management's facility in White River Junction has stopped accepting both paper and cardboard. The cost to New London DPW to truck paper/board to transfer for recycling now exceeds the costs of trucking and tipping fees for landfill in NH. Therefore, Bob has decided to close paper and board collection at the Transfer Station and instruct citizens to drop all paper products in the general trash.
- **Earth Day April 22nd (Saturday):** The Tracy Library event is from 9AM to Noon. Speakers will be Andrea Folsom from NRRRA; Karen Ebel will discuss NH State policies and legislation; Bonnie Christie will discuss municipal level issues; Maureen will contact Olivia Uyizeye to see if she is available to demonstrate home composting. The best location for the demo was thought to be the lawn in front of the Library on Main Street. Joy reported that the Colby-Sawyer event at Windy Hill Pre-school is not open to public. Committee members decided best to focus our efforts on our Earth Day public meeting at Tracy Library. Gerry and Bill noted that Earth Day is also a good time to ask attendees to think about volunteering for future Committee projects such as interviews with restaurants and other New London businesses as to their waste and recycling thinking.
- **Public Education and Town Website:** Maureen reported progress by Nancy at DPW preparing a QR code to link with the Town's DPW webpage for access to detailed information about disposing of many different types of waste for either recycling or trash. The QR-code link should be completed by March 5th, in time for distribution at Town Meeting. Maureen is preparing a 1-page information handout for use at meetings or bulletin boards around Town.
- **Town Meeting and Food Compost Warrant Article:** Bill Helm said the warrant article is completed and approved without objections by Selectmen and Budget Committee. Gerry observed that this makes recycling of food wastes even more important to reduce costs of waste tonnage and volumes taken to landfill. But he added that regarding waste

recycling, residents are of two types: those who understand and support waste reduction for environmental reasons; and those who pay attention only to costs. Therefore, even though the Committee's mission is to improve waste reduction, we need to communicate that reducing transfer of wastes to landfill is also driven by intended cost savings.

**NEW BUSINESS/OTHER:**

- **NH State Legislation and Planning:** Liz said, based on a Concord Monitor article, that the Hollis school system is looking for funding from NH DES that would be authorized by NH House legislation, HB462: "AN ACT making an appropriation to the solid waste management fund and targeting food waste reduction and diversion." The bill will appropriate \$2 million to DES's Solid Waste Management Fund and used for projects associated with the reduction and diversion of food, food waste, and other organic wastes until June 30, 2027. ( SEE: <https://legiscan.com/NH/text/HB462/id/2636314> ) This topic led to discussing the apparent lack of attention to date by Kearsarge Regional School District to teaching composting and recycling as part of a comprehensive environmental curriculum. The Committee agreed that this topic should be part of the Committee's future agenda, perhaps working with other towns in the school district.
- **Composting machine for home food waste:** Maureen demonstrated a counter-top machine that turns home food wastes into dry, odorless finely ground compost. Appropriate especially for apartments and/winter disposition of food wastes.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Next Waste Reduction Committee meeting is scheduled for March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 at 10AM at Town Offices meeting room, prior to Town Meeting.

**Motion to adjourn:** Meeting adjourn at 11:04 am.

Respectfully submitted by Gerard Gold  
Town of New London