

**New London Waste Reduction Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 2, 2023**

Call to order – Chairman Liz Meller called the meeting to order at 10:03 am

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Bonnie Christie and Abigail Stone, members of the Hopkinton/Webster Waste Reduction Committee; Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator.

MEETING MINUTES: Minutes for meeting of January 19, 2022, were unanimously approved.

PROJECTS:

- **Warrant Article:** Jerry reported that the Selectmen were pleased with Maureen's presentation on Committee projects and favorable to the proposed warrant article. Review by the Budget Committee is next step.
- **Food Waste Composting Project:** Maureen reported that 1.85 tons of food waste have been collected from the 20 participant households as of week 15. Renewal Compost takes the Town's compost to J&F Farms in Londonderry where it is deposited into windrows.
- **Town Website Waste Education:** Maureen reported that Emily Hardy has updated the Committee's webpage on the Town website with "Top Ten Trash Tips" and a "Sustainable Disposal Chart." SEE:<https://newlondon.nh.gov/index.asp?SEC=B20D789F-3F7D-434F-995A-561B54CEAC15>
The group discussed best places to distribute a 1-page Trash Tips handout including at Town Meeting, at Transfer Station, and at Town Clerk office reading table.
- **Styrofoam Collection Events:** Upcoming Styrofoam collection event in Lebanon is the topic of letter Joy is drafting for probable publication in the InterTown Record's New London column written weekly by Diane Chadwick.
- **Improved Signs for Transfer Station:** Liz has ordered a new, colorful sign for rinsing glass and plastic bottles before recycling. Paint-N-Place in Newport will make the sign.
- **Grant Proposals:** Kim Hallquist said she can write a grant proposal for new signage or can complete the application forms and submit a proposal written by the committee. The likely source for a signage project will be the GrassRoots Fund. New Hampshire the Beautiful's black and white signs are considered unattractive and less effective.
- **Earth Day 2023:** There are three possible projects for Earth Day on April 22nd. First, the Waste Reduction Committee would hold a talk or panel discussion at the New London Library, possibly with the title: Let's Talk Trash." Liz will reserve the Library meeting room. Possible speakers are: Karen Ebel, our NH State Representative; Reagan Bissonette, Executive Director of NRRRA (Northeast Resource Recovery Association); or Andrea Folsom, NRRRA's Communications Manager; of Hopkinton's Bonnie Christie to talk about the NH State Waste Reduction Plan.

Colby-Sawyer College professor Dr. Friedlander has talked with Joy about a possible event at the College's pre-school, Windy Hill. Joy also said that Kearsarge Regional High School faculty involved with the High School's Sustainability Club are planning an Earth Day project. These events, if they are to happen, are entirely the responsibility of the College or the school. The Waste Reduction Committee could help publicize. Maureen said that Olivia Uyizeye, planner at UVLSRPC, said she could lead an outdoor composting demonstration at the high school.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER

- **Hopkinton Guests** Bonnie Christie and Abigail Stone from Hopkinton/Webster Waste Reduction Committee said Hopkinton is working to reduce waste, motivated by increasing costs of waste disposal. In past years Hopkinton sent solid waste to Wheelabrator Corp trash-to-energy plants in Penacook, NH, and Massachusetts. Currently Hopkinton has a 5-year (2021-2025) solid waste hauling contract with Waste Management. Waste Management Inc hauls trash to its Turnkey Landfill in Rochester, NH. Increasing hauling/tipping fees is a topic of concern in Hopkinton. Bonnie said that in 2021 fees jumped from \$72/ton to \$82/ton and increase every year. This year Hopkinton is paying \$89/ton and by 2025 will be paying just under \$100/ton. Regarding Styrofoam recycling, Bonnie posed the dilemma of encouraging recycling versus focusing on alternatives (such as paper products) for packaging and food trays. Bonnie also discussed Hopkinton Town's "affiliation with Beyond Plastics. Beyond Plastics works to establish "Extended Producer Responsibility" (EPR) policies. Beyond Plastics was founded 2019 at Bennington College in Vermont. States that have adopted EPR laws include Maine, Oregon, and Colorado. SEE: www.beyondplastics.org/
- **Clean Up New London Day:** Selectmen have not yet selected the date for the annual event.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Next Waste Reduction Committee meeting is scheduled for 2/16/23 at 10AM at Town Offices meeting room.

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

Respectfully submitted by Gerard Gold
Town of New London