

New London Waste Reduction Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 27, 2023

Call to order: Chairman Jerry Coogan called the meeting to order at 10:05 PM

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joy Kubit

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Helm, Selectman

MEETING MINUTES: Minutes for meeting of June 8, 2023, unanimously approved.

PROJECTS:

Site Visit on June 28th to Renewal Compost and J&F Farm in Derry, NH. The site visit was discussed. The six-person visit was considered successful and informative. The visit included four Committee members and NH Rep. Karen Ebel and New London Selectman Bebe Casey. **DECISION:** the Committee agreed to post the site visit report on the WRC page of the Town website.

Food Waste Compost Project: To date 101 new participants are enrolled in Phase 2. Given the announced capacity to enroll total of 140 new participants in addition to the 20 continuing enrollees, 40 places remain unfilled. Of the new enrollees, 30 people still had not picked up their Renewal Compost buckets. **DECISION:** Committee agreed that August 19th (Saturday) would be the next distribution day for compost buckets at DPW, South Pleasant Street. Jerry Coogan will coordinate publicity.

Food Compost Project emails: Maureen reported on whether emails for the Town compost project should remain on private computers of Committee volunteers or if the Committee could use of Town email address. The problem is that adding a Town email has a cost. Brief discussion concluded it is simpler to continue with emails from the volunteer project coordinator.

Accepting food waste collection from non-commercial sources: There was a discussion of whether to enroll New London-based, non-commercial, organizations such as the Police Department, the Fire Station, and independent non-profits such as churches. Potential Problem: members of the organizations should not be allowed to bring home food wastes to their work or volunteer organizations, using them as collection points for disposal of food wastes which become a Town of New London cost. **DECISION:** Committee agreed to invite Town agencies and non-commercial organizations in New London to participate in the Town's Renewal Compost project, receiving one compost bucket for their on-site food wastes.

Site Visit to WTI/Wheelabrator incineration plant in Concord/Penacook: The July 25th site visit was deemed very informative regarding the current standards for collection and incineration of municipal waste that otherwise would go to landfills. Selectman Bill Helm asked the Committee to file a report for the Selectmen and Town generally. Gerry will prepare a site visit report.

New Business:

Discussion with Hilltop Place Community Association regarding on-site food waste composting. Based on an informal conversation with, Hilltop Place resident Sue Moseley Davies was invited to the WRC meeting. Sue described the governance at Hilltop Place for its 147 units. A Board of Directors makes governance decisions. Decisions are implemented by a small staff. Hilltop has a community garden organized and run by volunteers. Some individual households (###?) at Hilltop Place already participate in the Town's food waste composting project at the Transfer Station. The Committee's question is whether additional food waste composting could be done at the gardens, whether for the household food waste of the garden volunteers or perhaps as a larger Hilltop Place project, thereby diverting some food waste from the Town's project while also enriching garden soils at Hilltop.

Sue, as a resident, has a personal interest in composting. She offered to bring the topic to the Board at Hilltop with the idea of forming a volunteer advisory committee to research the topic. She emphasized that a project would be entirely volunteers, thus not adding responsibilities to the paid staff.

Maureen offered to prepare with Sue a discussion with the Hilltop Place Board. Maureen suggested that a representative from Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission with expertise in home composting techniques could participate.

Hannaford Market waste reduction projects: Jerry Coogan has talked with Hannaford's George Parmeter, their lead person for Health and Sustainability. Hannaford already collects film plastics for recycling into Trex construction boards. The company is working on source reduction of plastics, planning, for example, to replace plastic and foam hard packages with "tanbark" boxes. The Committee encouraged Jerry to invite Mr. Parmeter to a future Committee meeting, and perhaps a same-day presentation for the New London community.

Old Business:

Styrofoam Collection: The morning of October 28th, a Saturday, was selected as a Foam Collection Day. Residents of New London will bring clean foam packaging to the DPW Pleasant Street location. Joy will be lead organizer for the event. Delivery to Gilford, NH, of the collected foam will be done by DPW truck if the amount is large, or by private vehicles if small collection. Joy and others will prepare publicity for the event.

Possible compost projects with New London Elementary School: Jerry has talked with KRSD Superintendent Fenenberg, who referred him to Kelly Collins as the teacher contact at the school. Jerry said that UVLSRPC has grant money for compost and environmental training in schools. Maureen suggested that the Committee make a presentation at a regular meeting of the District School Board.

A motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 11:10AM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Next Waste Reduction Committee meeting is scheduled for July 27 (7/27/23) Thursday at 10:00AM at Town Offices Syd Crook meeting room,

Respectfully submitted by Gerard Gold

