

New London Waste Reduction Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 23, 2025 at Whipple Hall

Call to order: Jerry Coogan called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jerry Coogan, chairman; Chris McKee, Gerry Gold,, Maureen Prohl, Liz Meller. Maureen Prohl, Joy Kubit.

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Ellis.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Helm, Selectman; Sam Clarke, DPW Director;

MEETING MINUTES: Minutes for meeting of December 5, 2024, unanimously approved.

PROJECTS:

Food waste composting Phase II-: Maureen reported that of the 185 compost buckets received from Renewal Compost, 173 buckets were now distributed.

Sam reported that the food waste collection at the Transfer Station appears to be on "auto pilot," meaning consistent weekly filling of 5-to-6 bins for Renewal Compost. Staff report that resident participation appears to be beyond those officially enrolled in the WRC project, with people using their own buckets. Renewal Compost, when asked by DPW, says quality control is not a problem. Any additional tonnage costs for composting are balanced by less tonnage to NH landfill.

Polystyrene Collection: May 3rd was again confirmed for the Spring 2025 collection of Styrofoam at NewLondon DPW. Joy has contacted Megan at Gilford, NH, where foam is brought for "densification" into ingots for foam recycling into insulation. Joy expects to obtain 20 large collection bags, intending to use 10 bags for the Spring and Fall collection events. Gilford owns and operates the only densifier in the State. Lebanon DPW is working to obtain a densifier.

When asked about the extend of collected versus uncollected foam in the Town, Sam estimated current collections receive only "the tip of the iceberg" as most residents can not or do not store foam at home. Most foam still goes to landfill. Town DPW lacks the space, and the manpower, to store large volumes of foam. The Town DPW is considering if quarterly collections of foam could be done, taking into account the cost of trucking large volumes to Gilford.

Paper recycling: The status of DPW waste paper collection and recycling is stable and working well.

KRSD & Kearsarge Elementary School (KRES): Maureen reported that the new Assistant Principal at KRES, Jason Hirshorn has worked with other faculty members to develop a composting project at the school. The PTO has agreed to fund this project from now until the end of the year and has purchased from Renewal Compost five large totes for this purpose. Also, the fifth grade teachers would like to repeat last year's fifth grade class site visit to the new London transfer station to study recycling and environmental protection as part of their

education. . If the whole school would like to do an Earth Day project at the school, we (the WRC) could use the weeklong curriculum on recycling developed three years ago by Olivia Uyizeye from UVLSRPC.

NEW BUSINESS:

2024 WRC Annual Report for 2024 New London Town Report: Jerry has drafted the annual report, which was reviewed by committee members and approved in preparation for this meeting.

Earth Day in New London 2025: Earth Day is Tuesday, April 22nd. Committee discussion of possible activities included a workshop at the New London Library and a demonstration project at the Transfer Station. Two years ago, Andrea Folsom of Northeast Resource Recovery Association made a successful presentation at the library. The WRC wants to cooperate with, and avoid any conflict with, New London Clean-Up-Day, likely to be Saturday the 26th..

Future Role of Waste Reduction Committee: Bill Helm stated that the 3-year term for the Committee has been very successful. He anticipates that education is the major future direction for waste reduction, both through DPW work at the Transfer Station and with long-term focus on recycling and waste reduction project at the Elementary School. Regarding the theme of waste reduction education, Jerry noted that in Wilmot an independent citizen committee has been created to raise awareness of waste and recycling.

Regarding the next, February 20th, meeting of the WRC, Jerry suggesting inviting a representative from the Center for Eco-Technology, based in Northampton, MA, to discuss their food waste recycling work with 14 Kearsarge region restaurants.

Jerry and Joy also discussed if the WRC could participate at Colby-Sawyer's April 24th "Environmental Exposition," being organized by Ella Dougherty, Americorps/Climate Campus Action Corps member at Colby-Sawyer College. Kearsarge Climate Action (KCA) will have a table to the event. No decision was made.

Adjournment: Jerry adjourned the meeting at 10:48AM.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Next Waste Reduction Committee meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2025 (2/27/25) Thursday at 10:00AM at Whipple Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Gerard Gold, Secretary, Waste Reduction Committee