

New London Waste Reduction Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 2, 2023

Call to order: Chairman Liz Meller called the meeting to order at 10:01 am

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Helm, Selectman

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

MEETING MINUTES: Minutes for meeting of February 16, 2023, were unanimously approved.

PROJECTS:

- **Food Waste Composting Project:** Committee awaits Town Meeting vote on budget for compost project.
- **Styrofoam Collection for Gilford densifier:** April 1st in Lebanon is the next collection day in our area. The event is noted on the Town DPW webpage. Discussion of a possible future collection day in New London would have to be on the pattern of UVLSRPC hazardous waste collections: planned well in advance as part of an area wide UVLSRPC schedule.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Town Meeting:** Maureen is preparing the one-page, two-sided handout with information ofc "Trash Tips," a QR-code linked to the Committee and DPW pages on the Town website, and a table of recycle/trash disposal information for multiple items. A table for handouts at Town Meeting will be outside the KRSD gymnasium. Committee members will be there at 6:30PM.
- **Earth Day April 22nd:** The Committee again decided to hold an event on Earth Day, April 22nd, at Tracy Library and not link the event to the April 29th Town Cleanup Day. Speakers were confirmed: Andrea Folsum from NRRA; Karen Ebel to discuss NH State policies and legislation; Bonnie Christie to discuss municipal level issues; and Olivia Uyizeye of UVLSRPC to demonstrate home composting outside the library. A rain date was set for April 29th. A WRC member will speak to Gary, lead organizer for the Cleanup, about joint advertising.
- **Environmental curriculum for local schools:** Committee members discussed how to encourage teaching of environmental issues at Kearsarge Regional High School and other parts of the the Regional School District. It was suggested that later this year, Committee members, perhaps with concerned citizens from other towns, raise this issue with board members of Kearsarge regional School District. Inviting to a future Committee meeting New London's representatives on the District Board was also mentioned favorably. Those representatives are Ben Cushing and the newly elected School Board Representative. Bill Helm suggested inviting New London's outgoing School Board member, Bibi Hammond Casey, to attend a future Committee meeting. Maureen and Olivia (UVLSRPC) submitted the Earth Day Proposal to the KRSD Curriculum

Coordinators (Elementary MS, and HS). They offered information and assistance, if asked. No response to date.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER:

- **Paper to Trash Awareness:** Discussed complaints from residents received by Kim Hallquist and members of the Committee. The notice in Municipal Matters, and a letter from the Wilmot DPW manager in the InterTown Record, address the shift, Committee members agreed that the Transfer Station's hand-made "paper to trash" sign is inadequate and that the public deserve a more informative sign. Gerry agreed to draft a sign for review by Bob Harrington and Committee.
- **Pay-to-Throw:** Joy suggested the Committee review Pay-to-Throw experiences of other towns, saying she will contact some towns. Bill noted that this topic qualifies as a change in "policies and practices" and would require review and approval by the Selectmen. No problem if simply gathering information.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Next Waste Reduction Committee meeting is scheduled for March 16th, 2023 at 10:00AM at Town Offices meeting room,

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

Respectfully submitted by Gerard Gold
Town of New London

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 www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/ & www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/billinfo.aspx?id=487&inflect=2)

CHAPTER 149-R : SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FUND ; Section 149-R:4

149-R:4 Purpose and Use of the Fund.: I. The fund shall be used to provide matching grant funding to New Hampshire municipalities, private entities, and businesses for projects that will provide a demonstrated, significant improvement in waste diversion methods and contribute to a reduction of wastes, including hazardous waste materials, requiring disposal, including a regional or municipal materials recovery facility operated by a public or private entity, and other regional recycling efforts.

II. The fund may be used to hire consultants or contractors, or to pay other necessary expenses directly associated with approved activities in this chapter.

III. The department is authorized to solicit funds from the United States Environmental Protection Agency or other agencies that are targeted for making grants consistent with this section. Such funds, when received, may be deposited into the fund, and shall be used for the purposes described in this chapter. **Source.** 2022, 226:1, eff. July 1, 2022.