

New London Waste Reduction Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 25, 2023

Call to order: Chairman Jerry Coogan called the meeting to order at 10:03 am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Liz Meller, Joy Kubit, Chris McKee, Jerry Coogan, Gerry Gold

MEMBERS ABSENT: Maureen Prohl

OTHERS PRESENT: Rick Pevear, New London resident; Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator; Bill Helm, Selectman; Bob Harrington, DPW Director.; Howard Hoke, New London resident and owner, Echo Communications.

MEETING MINUTES: Minutes for meeting of April 13, 2023, unanimously approved.

PROJECTS:

Earth Day April 22nd at Tracy Memorial Library: Members agreed the event was successful. Attendance of 30 including presenters and committee met the target for the day. Demonstrations in library garden and presentation at meeting were positively received. Also agreed: to organize a similar event in 2024. Recommendations: 1) Record names of attendees; 2) feature Andrea Folsom from NRRA.

Site visit to Wheelabrator incinerator in Concord (Penacook): Liz Meller has inquired about a possible site visit. The Committee agreed with Bill Helm's comment that although a tour of the WTI facility would be informative, the Committee's agenda is full for the next year at least, and there is no foreseeable likelihood that the Town would be shifting waste disposal to Wheelabrator.

Paper waste: Howard Hoke, owner of Echo Communications and publisher of the Kearsarge Shopper® explained his experience with paper waste disposal. He emphasized that Reduce, Reuse, Recycle has always been important in the printing industry. But recycling paper is difficult because paper markets are both highly variable in pricing, and highly sensitive to quality control. Contamination of paper wastes is typical when types of paper are mixed and must be sorted at significant expense prior to recycling processes. "White ledger" paper of the type used for the Kearsarge Shopper® has value only when bales are not mixed with other papers. Quality control being essential, Howard would not want anyone bringing paper to his site. Newsprint markets are declining in value and are useful mostly for insulation, but only when an insulation manufacturing plant is close by and transportation costs are minimal.

Overall, the Town of New London is not equipped to sort paper wastes and the value of even sorted paper does not justify the cost of sorting.

Styrofoam (polystyrene) Collection: Joy suggested that New London should have a collection of Styrofoam planned for October, probably at the DPW site on South Pleasant Street, for Town residents only. Collected foam would be trucked to Gilford. Styrofoam

collection in Lebanon in April and May was taken to the foam compactor in Gilford. The Lebanon collection days were organized by Sustainable Lebanon and Lebanon Rotary Club.

Joy noted that UVLSRPC on 10/19/23 will conduct a : "waste collection" training workshop in Grantham.

Also UVLSRPC has more hazardous waste collection days scheduled for 2023:

<https://hhw.uvlsrc.org/hazardous-waste-collections/new-hampshire-schedules/>

Glass collection and recycling for road rebuilding: Bob Harrington noted that the Town of Sutton used a significant amount of crushed glass from the New London crushing facility off Mountain Road. Their project in 2022 was rebuilding the portion of Shaker Street from Cotton Road in Sutton to the New London town line. Later in 2023, Sutton DPW will use more crushed glass rebuilding more of Shaker Street from Cotton Road south to intersection with North Road near I-89 Exit 10.

Food Waste Composting Project: Maureen Prohl is planning the increase in households participating in the project from 20 to 160 households. She will request help as needed. If Maureen requests a full meeting of the committee, that will happen.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Next Waste Reduction Committee meeting is scheduled for June 22nd (6/22/23) Thursday at 10:00AM at Town Offices Syd Crook meeting room,

Motion to adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am..

Respectfully submitted by Gerard Gold

Town of New London

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