



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## **New London Waste Reduction Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday, July 21, 2022 10:00 AM**

**Call to order** – First meeting called to order at 10:00am

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elizabeth Meller, Maureen Prohl, Gerry Gold, Jerry Coogan, and Joy Kubit.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bill Helm, Selectman

~Bill Helm observed that Selectmen are not members of the Committee and his purpose in attending is to review the committee's mission; to note legal requirements of official Town committees under NH law, in particular Right to Know (need to keep minutes for public posting through Town website); and to suggest timelines for Committee products, such as proposals for Warrant Articles and any budget requirements

### **NEW BUSINESS/OTHER**

- **Purposes:** The Committee is to research methods of waste reduction, including associated costs, with recommendations reported to Selectmen and the Budget Committee as appropriate.
- **Time frame:** Proposals for 2023 March Town Meeting needed by end 2022. Proposals for 2024 Town Meeting needed by December 2023.
- **Officers** were selected by group discussion:
  - Chairman, Elizabeth Meller
  - Gerry Gold, Scribe/Secretary
  - The group agreed that a committee of five persons was adequate but that others could be added, with Select Board approval, when and if appropriate.
- **Purposes of the Committee:**
  - To reduce materials sent to landfills through source reduction, reuse and recycling; Waste reduction benefits to be both cost-savings and environmental health.
  - Emphasize strategies for composting of biodegradable waste to include residential, Town, and multi-town options. Strategies to be consistent with NH State goals.
  - Improve recycling of plastic waste by building on current practices and ideas found regionally.
  - Educate residents about all types of recycling and actions they can take individually.
  - Review strategies for cost-efficient waste reduction generally whether within New London or via multi-town agreements.

- **Planning:**

- Monthly meetings, Thursdays at 10AM in Town Offices. Additional meetings as needed.
- Next meeting: August 11, 10:00AM: with Bob Harrington, Public Works Director, to review the current status of Town waste reduction and next steps and costs. Focus on
  - Composting food wastes
  - plastics recycling.

Also, to discuss re-establishing a SwapShop at Transfer Station.

- Site visits: prior to next meeting two informal site visits are likely:
  - Joy Kubit may visit Gilford, NH, to report on their recycling of polystyrene foam.
  - Maureen Prohl may visit Hollis, NH, to report on their municipal composting
- Swap Shop at Transfer Station: **Paula Minaert**, a volunteer resident, has met with Kim Hallquist, Bob Harrington, Joy Kubit, and Liz Meller. Ms. Minaert has advertised for volunteers. Now she is planning the next steps, trying to organize volunteers to staff a weekly "swap shop."
- Plastic waste recycling: Jerry is involved in New London Rotary plastic bag recycling project, built on Hannaford's company-wide program. For info on how other Upper Valley towns are attacking plastic waste, Joy provides link to "Ten Towns Tool Kit": [www.10towns.org/home](http://www.10towns.org/home)
- Food waste recycling very complex and needs to be analyzed in components: household solutions; commercial solutions; regional or multi-town solutions. Example: gather information from three commercial vendors: Casella, Nordic Waste, and Renewal Composting. They collect food waste under contract with restaurants, Colby Sawyer College, and others. But that waste is then dropped into New London's town trash for costly trucking to landfill. Compare that "system" with Lebanon's facility for industrial scale composting and reuse which removes food waste from landfill disposal. What can New London learn about methods and costs of food waste disposal appropriate to the Town and sub-regional situation?
- Possible coordination and project research assistance from Colby-Sawyer faculty and students. Past inquires have not resulted in real projects.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Next Waste Reduction Committee scheduled for August 11, 2022 at 10:00am in Syd Crook Conference Room

**Motion to adjourn:** Motioned to adjourn at 11:00am.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Gerry Gold**  
Town of New London