



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**New London Waste Reduction Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 1, 2022
10:00 AM**

Call to order – Called meeting to order at 10:01am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Meller, Maureen Prohl, Gerry Gold, and Joy Kubit

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jerry Coogan

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Helm, Selectman; Bob Harrington, DPW Director

PROJECTS:

- **Bob's biggest concern: "Space, always."** How to accomplish assigned work at 3 sites with available staff. Every new proposal challenge space and staff time available.
- **Polystyrene recycling** unlikely because of storage requirement. But further study worthwhile.
- **Locating Swap Shop** not to interfere with normal Transfer Station traffic and staff. Bob said DPW could build a small building staffed by volunteers.
- **Film plastics recycling:** Town adoption of the Rotary's project won't work without Hannaford willing to process the Town's film plastics collection as they have the disposal system set up.
- **Compost food waste pilot program** not a huge problem if drop-off site limited to two rodent-proof containers (48-gal Totes). But bigger question is a larger program with more users and larger number of Totes (DPW already dealing with rats). Overall, feasible but a Town decision to spend money for commercial collection from food waste totes. State law requires weekly commercial collection. The Town's "Recycling Revolving Fund" could finance the pilot program. Bob emphasized
 - 1) the commercial contractor selected must operate under contract that requires liability insurance protecting Town from all damages.
 - 2) No time for DPW staff monitoring of food waste Totes.
 - 3) Contractor to provide weight of food collections to compare to landfill haulage costs. Bill Helm noted that the pilot program should start in October and run at least three months so that data collected would be available in December to support a warrant article for Town Meeting in March 2023.

DECISION: Food Waste Pilot/trial Program: proceed with a 15-family project. Initial funding to come from the Recycling Revolving Fund. Location to be at Transfer Station along the exit side with two (2) 48-gal totes. Next steps:

- 1) Recruit 15 families with a public information campaign that also promotes home composting using plastic bins available from NRRC and sold by Town DPW.

- 2) Maureen will talk with both Nordic Waste (Lebanon) and Renewal Compost (Manchester) for cost and contract terms.
- 3) Public information plan suggested:
 - Present ideas/plan to Selectmen.
 - Discuss at Sept 10th Town Advisory Committee meeting.
 - Use Town website and Municipal Matters news for pilot project recruitment and other recycling activities.
 - Handouts at Nov 8th election voting day: food waste project focus, perhaps plastics; to be discussed further.
 - Advertising in Kearsarge Shopper and possibly Intertown Record. Suggested someone talk with Howard Hoke at K-Shopper as he is supportive of recycling.
 - Table at Oct 15th Town Democrats "We the People" candidate rally on Town Green.
 - Rejected: no table/booth at Town Offices or at Transfer Station.
 - Once pilot project is active, seek meetings with condominium associations encouraging their thinking and actions for food waste and plastics recycling.
 - For home recycling using NRRRA plastic bins, work with Bob Harrington to purchase bins from NRRRA and also talk with Rocky's, and perhaps Belletetes, for their participation in a joint project.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Next Waste Reduction Committee scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2022 at 10:00am in Syd Crook Conference Room

Motion to adjourn: Motioned to adjourn at 11:10am.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Gold
Town of New London