

**New London Waste Reduction Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, September 28, 2023**

**Call to order:** Chairman Jerry Coogan called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bill Helm, Selectman

**MEETING MINUTES:** Minutes for meeting of August 24, 2023, unanimously approved.

**PROJECTS:**

**Waste Reduction Education:** Chairman Jerry Coogan thanked Maureen for a front page news article describing the Committee's work during its first year. The article was in the InterTown Record. Jerry noted Joy's prior week front page article about New London's 10/28/23 foam collection event. Jerry said another update with Selectmen is needed. Bill Helm suggested Jerry talk with Kim to get on the agenda for the November 9th meeting.

**Food waste composting project:** Maureen reported that 8.5 tons have been diverted from landfill as of 9/12/23. With more participant enrolled, weekly gallons collected have increased rapidly, from 70 gal in early July to 240 gals on Labor Day weekend. Total enrolled participants are 135. New enrollments are accepted and buckets are kept at DPW office with Nancy Barthol. Participants can now purchase food waste Biobags at the Town Offices. Any plan to expand project participation to the whole town will best wait to see changes now that summer residents have left. Bill Helm noted that of course costs would rise with much greater numbers participating. Also, expansion could be a topic for December 's Selectmen public meeting at Colby-Sawyer College.

**Home-based composting:** The Committee has scheduled a September 29th workshop on home garden composting to be held at Whipple Hall. The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission will conduct the workshop. Committee and UVLSRPC discussions with interested residents at Hilltop Condominiums were the impetus for the workshop.

**Waste disposal by incineration:** Bill Helm said that further consideration of diverting New London's municipal waste hauling from landfill to the alternative of "waste-to-energy" (WTE) is on hold. DPW and Bob Harrington have too many other issues in the near future. A primary concern is the upcoming water main replacement, with construction along Main Street. Other pressing needs include DPW staffing at the Transfer Station and elsewhere.

**Polystyrene/Styrofoam® collection October 28th:** Joy has observed foam collection at Lebanon, where many volunteers were needed to carry foam pieces from cars to "huge" collection bags. She will also attend a training session for foam collection to be held 10/19/23 in Grantham with presenter from Gilford NH. A large A-frame poster for this event will soon be placed at the Transfer Station. Kris said the A-frame, and advertising, are much more useful than her experience passing out 1-page fliers in town.

**Meeting with staff of Kearsarge Regional Elementary School, New London:** Jerry has a scheduled meeting Sept 28th at the school to discuss level of interest in food waste collection for composting. Discussion may focus on overall school food waste issues, but also possibly to discuss incorporating food waste and related waste reduction topics as part of the student curriculum. Maureen said it is important to think about meeting with the regional School Board and work with other towns to build support for food waste thinking and projects.

A motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 11:05AM.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Next Waste Reduction Committee meeting is scheduled for October 26 (10/26/23) Thursday at 10:00AM at Town Offices Syd Crook meeting room.

The Nov-Dec meeting will be December 7th (12/7/23).

Respectfully submitted by Gerard Gold

Town of New London