



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257 • NEWLONDON.NH.GOV

New London Waste Reduction Committee Meeting Minutes Friday, September 30, 2022 10:00 AM

Call to order – Meeting called to order at 10:05am

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Helm, Selectman; Karen Ebel and Joan Lamson

MEETING MINUTES: Approve meeting minutes from September 16, 2022

- **Motion** made by Liz Meller to accept the meeting minutes of September 16, 2022.
Unanimously approved.

PROJECTS:

- **Food Waste Collection Pilot Program:** Maureen reported on recruitment of volunteer households. To date 12 family applications received. Town website useful but takes time for word-of-mouth. Better, she expects, will be Kearsarge Shopper 1/4-page advert to appear in 10/6 edition and again in 10/12 edition. Howard Hoke provided a 2-for-one cost of \$125 for a 1/4-page ad.

VOTE: Committee approved Maureen's request to extend enrollment period to Oct 15th.

QUESTION: How to pay for K-Shopper ad? In fact, Maureen paid in advance, so real question is whether to request Selectmen approve and reimburse that \$125 cost. Committee decided that urgency of the expense justified reimbursement by Town and will request Selectmen reimburse Maureen.

Maureen met Sept 27th with Bob Harrington and Renewal Compost owner to plan location at Transfer Station for food waste collection. Homeowners will bring 5-gal bags (provided by Renewal Compost) weekly to "Tote" at Transfer Station. Initially only 1-64-gal tote will be needed and will be collected weekly per NH State law.

- **Home composting:** Maureen has talked with Peter Bloch about a video about New London home composting. The concept: Peter would use drone photography of different types of home composting (e.g., compost bins; garden piles) without identifying or filming residences. Peter is interested and thinking Spring 2023 for project.
- **Town Citizen Advisory Committee:** Meeting on 10/1/22 at 7:30AM: Waste Reduction Committee presentation at meeting will focus on food waste and plastics but also discuss the broader mission of the Committee to address overall reduction of solid wastes through projects and education. The Committee will ask the audience to offer their ideas. Topics to be addressed:

- 1) Maureen: Food waste collection and composting pilot program' and home waste composting.
- 2) Jerry: plastics recycling and reporting on status of Rotary Club collection of film plastic bags. He will describe 1-7 designations of plastic types, as defined by plastics industry. Joy noted that the Lebanon Co-op collects #5 plastic containers, typically no-neck open top yoghurt and soup containers. The Co-op may be working with a national organization called "Preserve Gimme5". SEE: www.preserve.eco/pages/gimme5-overview
- 3) Joy: foam/polystyrene options and her findings visiting Gilford, NH. Any options for New London at this point would be Spring 2023. She will meet with Bob Harrington concerning the option of a recycle container for residents to place their clean styrofoam and possible costs. She also talked about "NH the Beautiful" and improved signage for town trash disposal. SEE: <https://nhthebeautiful.org/>.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER

- **Long range planning:** Bill Helm noted that the Planning Board has not mentioned trash/waste reduction in its Master Plan. He recommended that the Committee attend and speak at an upcoming Planning Board meeting. Liz will attend the Oct 11th meeting.
- **TerraCycle Inc.** www.terracycle.com/: Karen Ebel, noted the rapid innovation in the plastics industry., Multi-layered plastics are making obsolete the classification of plastics into 1-7 groups as a guide for recycling. She noted a New Jersey company, Terracycle establishes "partnerships" between trash producers and trash collectors to reduce trash to landfills.
- **UVLSRPC:** www.uvlsrpc.org/. Maureen talked about the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission writing a grant for recycling.
- **10towns.org** Joy noted that NH-based www.10towns.org/home is launching a plastic reduction pilot, addressing single use plastic (SUP) within restaurants, schools, hospitals.

Overall, it was agreed the New London Waste Reduction Committee must focus initially on reducing food wastes and plastic waste in the trash stream at the Transfer Station. Also agreed to educate the public about the complicated problem of solid waste reduction.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Next Waste Reduction Committee scheduled for Friday, October 21, 2022 at 10:00am in Syd Crook Conference Room.

Other dates:

- **10/11/22: NL Planning Board:** Liz to discuss long-term trash issues
- **10/27/22: NL Selectmen:** Provide waste reduction Committee overview

*Post note from Liz Meller: I met with Adam Ricker on October 3rd to keep him informed of the long-range plans which might need funding of the solid waste committee through the town's CIP. Adam suggested that we be in touch in August 2023 when the process begins for 2024. He reminded me that the minimum amount for CIP requests is \$10,000.

Motion to adjourn: Motioned to adjourn at 11:05am.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Gold
Town of New London