

## Draft Minutes

### Hopkinton Waste Reduction Committee

September 16, 2021

Present: Bonnie Christie, Chair. Mary Carol Schaffrath, Pat LaPree, Kristen Cummings, Abigail Stone, Rosalie Smith.

Absent: Ginnie Haines, Jeff Donohoe.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Bonnie. It was an in-person meeting so there was no roll call attendance taken tonight.

1) Acceptance of the draft minutes from our last meeting:

There was no meeting in May due to the lack of a quorum. The motion to accept the draft minutes for the April 15 meeting was made by Rosalie and seconded by Mary Carol. The vote to accept the minutes was unanimous in the affirmative. The minutes will be sent to the Town website to be posted.

2) Report on the food scrap project results:

3) Kristen compiled the data from the 10 families who completed the three-month data sheets for weights of food scraps and trash in their homes. Twenty families signed up for the project.

Thank you, Kristen, for all your hard work!

The results were that the cumulative amount of food scraps weighed by the 10 families was 510 pounds and trash was 684 pounds. The average amount of food scraps generated per household was 4.5 pounds weekly, which is 48.1% of the per person total refuse.

Some participants raised concerns about the smell of home composting and animal problems with backyard composting. Kristen will devise a short questionnaire for the families that participated to get more feedback about how the project worked for them.

Elaine Loft is the winner of the home composting bucket for most comprehensive data collection for the project.

We will collect the information from the project and put in on the Hopkinton website and in Susan Covert's email.

Abigail will write an article for the school newspaper about the results.

The committee will get on the Selectboard agenda and let them know the project results, hopefully before budget season gets underway.

A discussion followed about the importance of education for the residents about composting, pay as you throw and recycling as well as a reduction and reuse of packaging.

Pat will update the pay as you throw information on the Town website for resident information.

Kristen is working on a brochure to be available in Town and at the transfer station about what and how to recycle.

4) Bonnie reported that the Hopkinton Webster refuse committee has updated the ordinance that governs the fee schedule for the Transfer Station and has separated the fee setting function so that in the future the Selectboards do not have to approve the fee changes. It has been given to the Selectboard in Hopkinton for approval. The Webster selectboard has already approved it.

5) Other/new business:

There was a discussion about the next tasks before this committee in the coming months. Community education, the future of composting at the municipal level, reduction of plastic usage in the schools, and increasing distribution and enforcement of stickers at the transfer station were some of the ideas discussed.

- 6) The motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM was made by Kristen and seconded by Mary Carol. The vote to adjourn was unanimous in the affirmative.
- 7) The next meeting will be at the Library Conference Room on Thursday, October 14 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia LaPree