Minutes

Hopkinton Waste reduction Committee

Thursday March 18th, 2021

Present: Diane Myler, Bonnie Christie, Pat LaPree, Abigail Stone Kristen Cummings, Mary Carol Schaffrath, Liz Gilmore.

Absent: Ginnie Haines, Jeff Donohoe, Sally Embly.

1) The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Bonnie. The open meeting statement was read and roll call attendance was taken.
2) The draft minutes for the February 18 meeting were reviewed and accepted by the committee. The motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Diane and seconded by Mary Carol. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes. Pat will send the minutes to the Town website.
3) **Update on 2021 legislation:** There has been no movement on the federal level toward the Break Free from Plastics Pollution Act. At the State level, HB 413 will come up for a vote in April and then go to the Senate if it passes the House and then on to the Governor for a signature.
4) **Update on food waste diversion for composting:** Kristen, Bonnie and Diane took a field trip to the Lebanon Transfer station, which has had a food scrap recycling program going with good success. In 2020, the Director said that they averaged about 400 pounds of scraps a week from families from 22 towns and 200 tons a year from commercial users. Kristen explained that families apply for a permit and pay 15.00/year. They receive a 5-gallon bucket to put the food scraps in. There is a 1 cubic yard dumpster at which the scraps can be left. The scraps are then hauled to the yard waste area at the transfer station and incorporated with the yard waste by turning with a forklift. The compost is used for municipal projects. A discussion followed about how we might gather data for how well or if a similar program might work at our transfer station. In Lebanon, the first step was to ask 25 families to volunteer to weigh their food scraps for three months to get an idea of how much waste could be reduced by collection and composting the scraps. The committee agreed to keep discussing the possibilities for conducting a pilot program like this in Hopkinton/Webster.
5) **Earth Day plans**: Diane reported that Cindy Camp, Leave No Trace Refillery, is available to come here for Saturday April 24 with her van and products. Ginnie is not here tonight, and she is looking into whether we can have Cindy set up at the Depot parking lot on Saturday during the hours that the Contoocook Farmer's Market is there. A discussion followed about us having a table there as well, or at the gazebo, to hand out blue bags, ask in general where people might pick up trash, provide information about Leave No Trace and possibly get families to volunteer for the food scrap pilot project. Abigail volunteered to write a short information sheet about plastic pollution and local resources to reduce plastic use. The next committee meeting is April 15th, and we will finalize Earth Day plans then.
6) Hopkinton School District update: Hop 100 has decided to change the scope of the project so that it is a comprehensive sustainability proposal to the Board.
7) **New/other business:**

   Bonnie requests that when we want to comment during our Zoom meetings, please visibly raise your hand so people are not talking over each other.

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 PM was made by Pat and seconded by Mary Carol. The vote to adjourn the meeting was unanimous. The next meeting will be on Thursday April 15th at 7:00 PM. Bonnie will be absent, so Kristen volunteered to chair the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat LaPree