

## **Minutes**

### **Hopkinton Waste Reduction Committee**

**Thursday November 19, 2020**

**Present:** Bonnie Christie, Ginnie Haynes, Kristen Cummings, Rosalie Smith, Pat LaPree, Sally Embley, Abigail Stone.

**Absent:** Jeff Donohoe, Diane Myler.

**Guest:** Cindy Camp from Leave No Trace Refillery Company in Eliot ME.

1) The meeting was called to order by Chair Bonnie Christie at 7:02 PM. Roll call attendance was taken.

2) Review and accept minutes from the October 15, 2020 meeting. There were two spellings errors corrected. The motion to accept the October minutes was made by Ginnie and seconded by Mary Carol. The vote was unanimous to accept the October minutes. Pat will send them to be posted on the Town website.

3) Presentation by Cindy Camp: Cindy outlined the mission and the structure of her business. The goal of Leave No Trace Refillery is to reduce the use of non-biodegradable plastics by providing a mobile service that sells and refills customer's containers with natural and effective cleaning and personal care products. Cindy has a van, and she fills orders received online and delivers to the customer's door. All her products are sold by the ounce and customers can refill any container they want as well as having the option to purchase refillable containers from Cindy.

A discussion followed about how this committee could introduce Cindy's business to the Hopkinton community. Ideas included an open house or an Earth Day event in Town. We will continue to discuss these plans.

4) Transfer Station Proposed Budget Recap: The Select board heard the proposed 2021 budget for the Transfer station at their meeting this week. The contract to haul the waste from the Transfer station is up for renewal. Waste Management has increased their cost per ton and will have yearly

increases during the five-year contract. Waste tonnage has increased in 2020 and recycling of materials continues to net less revenue every year

The Transfer Station building is in disrepair and will need to be attended to in 2021. A discussion followed about how this committee can recommend to the Webster/Hopkinton Refuse Disposal Committee ways to reduce waste tonnage, promote reuse rather than disposal of construction materials and household plastics(e.g. by using a service like Leave No Trace Refillery and education to decrease contamination of recyclables) and align tipping fees with actual disposal fees.

5) Research on potential Town wide composting: Kristen did some extensive research into the viability of providing food waste composting at our Transfer Station. Reducing food waste in the tonnage of waste hauled out could reduce that tonnage by up to 25% annually, a significant savings to the budget. Kristen reports that most Towns use a composting contractor to haul the food waste away because to set up an on-site processing system involves State regulations. Lebanon and Keene State College do have onsite processing systems, but for small towns, the contract haulers provide a dedicated container for residents then haul it to Massachusetts to process. Some of these haulers include compost removal as part of a waste hauling contract.

6) Hopkinton School District 5Rs Task Force Update: Bonnie reports that Steve Chamberlin called a meeting of the Task Force this week. Among the thing discussed were partnering with Hopkinton 100 to present the school board a proposal to decrease waste production and eliminate plastics in the cafeteria in the school district. The groups also want to propose other energy efficient guidelines for both the school and the Town. Bonnie noted that with the groundwork already done by these two groups and our subcommittee that after the pandemic is behind us, we will work together to bring solid plans to the school board.

7) Waste Management Contract? Ginnie has been following the discussion with the Select Board and will keep us informed.

8) Notebooks for committee members will be available at the Town office on Tuesday.

9) Other/new business: NRRA holds a monthly municipal operator meeting that the public can attend. The next meeting is December 9 and the meeting on February 10, 2021 will be a virtual tour of Eco Maine.

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM was made by Pat and seconded by Bonnie. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at this time. The next meeting will be Wednesday Dec 17 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia LaPree