

**Draft Minutes**  
**Hopkinton Waste Reduction Committee**  
**December 17, 2020**

Present: Diane Myler, Bonnie Christie, Pat LaPree, Rosalie Smith, Jeff Donohoe, Abigail Stone, Kristen Cummings, Liz Gilmore.

Absent: Ginnie Haynes, Sally Embley.

- 1) Bonnie called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. The roll call was completed for attendance.
- 2) Review of draft minutes. The motion was made to accept the minutes for the November 19, 2020 as written by Diane and seconded by Rosalie. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative to accept the minutes. Pat will send the minutes to the Town website for publication.

- 3) Report on Plastics class and the "Plastics Trifecta" bill by Abigail:

Abigail took a class through Bennington College taught by the person who started the Beyond Plastics organization. Abigail reported that the class focused on the environmental, political, public health and social justice issues in the plastics and petroleum industry and the need to reduce use and manufacture of plastics instead of just relying on recycling to address plastics pollution. The class will be offered again in February 2021 and information can be found at [bennington.edu](http://bennington.edu). The Freedom from Plastics act is in Congress and writing out representatives to support its passage is something we can do.

The Plastics Trifecta bill is a template for municipalities and state governments to use to ban the use of single use plastics, plastic straws, and Styrofoam food containers.

A discussion followed about how policy mandates of this type in NH needs "enabling legislation" passed by the State Legislature before municipalities can enact regulations. We also discussed the potential barriers to making a mandate without enabling legislation at the Town level such as enforcement and litigation costs if the legality of a policy is challenged in court. The committee thanked Abigail for her report and commitment to the reduction of plastics pollution.

- 4) Update on Waste Management contract: Jeff reported that the five-year contract with Waste Management has been renewed by the Town. Jeff reported that the Town Administrator did investigate several other vendors, including ones that could haul food waste, and Waste Management was much more cost effective. Jeff noted that there is no minimum amount of tonnage that WM will haul so if we can reduce our quantity it will cost less in tipping fees without penalty.
- 5) Update on Hopkinton School District 5R taskforce meeting: Bonnie reported that Steve Chamberlain held a meeting yesterday. Once the COVID-19 meal protocols are over, the school district will buy milk in bulk from Contoocook

Creamery. Amy Roth at Maple Street School has a plan to compost food waste and is ready to start it after COVID-19 protocols are rolled back. Hopkinton 100 has a goal of all school district buildings being carbon neutral by 2030. These meetings take place every third Wednesday at 3:15 via Zoom.

6) Update on the Transfer Station Budget: Jeff reported that the budget is with the Budget Committee now and will be reviewed by the Select Board by mid-February.

7) Vote on items to bring to the Hopkinton/Webster Refuse disposal committee: There was a lengthy discussion on several topics to bring to a meeting with the HWRC sometime in the future. It was noted that the Transfer Station is in some disrepair and there is some money in the budget to address these problems this year but that it will be a long-term project and we as a committee will need to do some long-term planning to support recycling at the Transfer Station. The costs of commodities in the recycling field are still flat so revenue is down and has been for several years while hauling fees continue to go up. Strategies such as more signage at the Transfer Station to inform residents of proper disposal, spot checking of valid stickers on vehicles and compliance with green bags by Hopkinton residents through signage at the entrance of the Transfer Station and at the hopper. Jeff suggested that the HWRC send a letter with their concerns to the Town Administrator. It was agreed that enforcement is the job of the TS staff and education and support can be our roll. The HWRC is the group that makes policy changes at the TS. Bonnie will reach out the HWRC and ask for a joint meeting between our committees preferably before Town Meeting.

There are 34 towns in NH that use pay by bag. Pat, Kristen, and Bonnie will reach out to the towns that match our demographics and ask how long they have had pay by bag, how do they address compliance and if their revenues have decreased over that time. Once we have a meeting set up with HWRC we will finalize the issues to bring to that meeting.

8) Other Business:

There was no other business to discuss. The motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Bonnie and seconded by Jeff. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM.

The next meeting will be Thursday January 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia LaPree

Secretary