

Minutes

Hopkinton Waste Reduction Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 18th, 2021 via Zoom

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

- 1) The meeting was called to order by Bonnie at 7:03 PM. The roll call statement was read for a virtual meeting and attendance was taken for all members present via roll call.
- 2) **Acceptance of the minutes for the meeting on January 21, 2021:** There was one addition, the word gas to follow greenhouse in section 6. The motion to accept the minutes as corrected was made by Pat and seconded by Ginnie. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative to accept the minutes. Pat will send the final minutes to be posted on the town website.
- 3) **HWRC annual report:** Kristen, Bonnie and Jeff worked on the report and the committee has had a chance to review it from the attached copy. Any feedback the committee wishes to forward to them is fine.
- 4) **Update on 2021 legislation:** Kristen and Bonnie reported on what is progressing in the legislature. On the federal level, the BFFPPA act is working its way through Congress. The bill is sponsored by Katherine Clark.
HB 413 had a public hearing on February 16 and Kristen capsulized the hearing discussion. There is a working group developing the language for the final bill and it is in "ought to pass" status now.
- 5) **Update on food waste diversion for composting:** Kristen reported that there needs to be more research done on this issue. Asking the towns in NH that currently have a program will help answer some of the questions we have about the efficacy of a program at our transfer station. A discussion followed about the pros and cons and cost benefit to reduce or eliminating food waste from the waste stream here in Hopkinton. Kristen will continue to research the options.
- 6) **Hopkinton Webster Refuse Disposal Committee:** Bonnie sits on the committee and has asked for a meeting of the HWRDC for April 21.
- 7) **Status of research on Pay as You Throw:** Pat reported that she, Kristen, and Bonnie have split up the list of towns about our size that use PAYT and Kristen has made a Google Docs sheet for us to compile the data we gather. We are asking the same questions of every town. The progress has been slow, and we will keep at it. The goal will be to have the project completed by the next meeting.
- 8) **Public reminder about using green bags:** Kristen sent a reminder statement that Susan Covert included in her email to residents. The committee thanks Kristen for taking this initiative.
- 9) **Hopkinton School District climate change and environmental justice working group update:** Superintendent Steve Chamberlain is updating the school board on this group at tonight's school board meeting. The group is committed to eliminating single use plastics in the school district and pursuing renewable energy strategies for the district.
- 10) **Other/new business:** The committee discussed Earth day and our sponsoring the introduction of Leave No Trace Refillery to the community. There will be no formal roadside cleanup this year due to COVID-19. Last year despite bad weather, the committee

gave out 250 bags on Roadside Cleanup day. Ginnie agreed to chair a subcommittee to develop a plan for Earth Day 2021. Diane will reach out to Cindy Camp, owner of Leave no Trace, and see if she is available for the Saturday after Earth Day (24th). If not, we could look toward her setting up at the farmer's market once it resumes in May.

There was a brief discussion about the mission of our committee and whether we feel we are being effective in our goal. We agreed that feedback is always welcome among each other.

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 was made by Pat and seconded by Diane. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting will be Thursday March 18 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia LaPree