

Hopkinton Waste reduction Committee Meeting
Minutes

April 21, 2022

Present: Diane Myler, Bonnie Christie, Pat LaPree, Ginnie Haines, Jeff Donohoe, Kristen Cummings.

Guest: Alyssa McKeon and Luke Simon from Witching Hour Provisions in Contoocook.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bonnie at 7:00 PM.

1. Minutes: The motion was made to accept the February and March 2022 minutes as written was made by Kristen and seconded by Ginnie. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.
Alyssa and Luke are here to introduce themselves to the committee and describe the products their store provides to customer. The store stocks many refillable and low or no packaging personal care and household products. They are committed to upcycling materials to reduce single use plastics use and repurpose materials and objects toward a goal on a sustainable materials future.
2. Ginnie brought several five-gallon buckets with screw on lids and handles to show the committee. She can get them for free from Biometrics, a company that receives them with materials that are wrapped in plastic in the buckets so there is no cross contamination. The buckets would be great for families that want to compost at home and for the pilot project that Work Song farm is in to collect food scraps for their compost pile at the farm.
3. Bonnie reported that NRRA is launching a program for members on social media called "Recycle Right." Bonnie will send the link to committee members.
4. Bonnie shared that reusable utensils are now being used in the Maple Street School cafeteria. There is also an active composting program at MSS, headed by Amy Rothe. The next goal is to increase composting at Harold Martin School and Hopkinton Middle High School. There is a bill being presented to obtain all electric school buses and there is money to replace existing diesel buses if it becomes law.
5. The committee discussed ways to support local businesses in their efforts to reduce and/or eliminate the use of single use plastics and Styrofoam packaging and to celebrate the businesses that are already doing so. We will continue to plan and launch a campaign for this in the community.
6. Earth Day Planning:
Ginnie will bring tables so we can set up outside the gazebo.
Kristen will bring bags, gloves and there will be bags available at the Town Hall in Hopkinton. Kristen and Bonnie will have maps and we will write down routes chosen by those who get bags on an easel. Pat and Ginnie will bring tick and bug spray. Witching Hour Provisions will provide coffee and a raffle prize of goodies from the store for residents who get bags from us. Indigo Blue has donated gifts of reusable bags and earth bracelets to be given to all who want them. We will have signs acknowledging their generosity and support.
7. New/other business:
Bonnie reports that there is money to rebuild the recycling sheds at the transfer station. The HWRC has targeted 2025 as the year to fix the recycling bays at the Transfer station. Liz brought a piece of material that could be good for new signs at the transfer station,

light and durable. She suggested that now would be a suitable time to upgrade the signs. Kristen has pictures of the signs at the Lebanon Transfer Station which are clear and concise. NRRA provides regular reports to the Transfer Station about costs of recyclables and tonnage that is saved from the landfill. There is a white board on which this data can be written by the hopper at the TS. It would be good if it were used. There was a discussion about how to reopen the swap shed and other efforts to swap and give away usable items in the community, like the library swap, Buy Nothing group on Facebook, and clothing swaps.

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 was made by Bonnie and seconded by Ginny. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.

The next meeting will be Thursday May 19th at 7:00 PM at the library.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia LaPree