

Hopkinton Waste Reduction Committee

Thursday February 18 19,2023

Minutes

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

Absent: Rosalie Smith, Mary Carol Schaffrath.

Guests: Alyssa McCann, Dan Kilraine

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bonnie Christie at 7:01 PM.

Minutes from the January 2023 meeting were presented. Several spelling corrections and one phrase clarification were identified. The motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Ginni and seconded by Bonnie. The motion passed with no objections.

1. Bonnie reported that she and Abigail attended the New London Waste Reduction committee meeting. New London would like to collaborate with us on Earth Day activities in their town. They also ran a three-month pilot program for food scrap collection and will have a warrant article this year to formalize the program at the Transfer Station for their residents. We have been invited to attend future meetings.
2. Dan Kilraine reported that the food scrap collection he has been providing is gaining popularity. He said that he often runs out of clean buckets for people to exchange. He also reported that the emptying and cleaning of the buckets is labor intensive. He said that he is hesitant to grow the program at this time because it takes up a lot of his time. There was a discussion about ways we may be able to help him. He estimates that he processes about 60 buckets a week. Among the ideas discussed were a rinse station so residents could rinse their own buckets, volunteers to do the bucket cleaning, increased education to residents on how to compost so that there might be more backyard composting and charging a nominal fee for bucket cleaning. New London has a collection site at their TS and a company called Renewal comes and picks it up for a fee.
3. The Select Board has decided to present a warrant article to allow them to adjust the price of the green bags. The cost has not increased since 2010.
4. There were two hearings at the State House on January 24th. Pat and Bonnie attended and Bonnie testified in favor of the bills. Both bills were sent on from committee as "ought to pass".
5. We continued the discussion about how to encourage recycling at events and within local businesses this year. We discussed providing containers for recycling at events and how best to make sure the result is non contaminated recyclable materials. We will discuss this more next month and have a plan to present before the event season begins.
6. We discussed having an information table at Town Meeting again this year and a media display. We will continue planning at next month's meeting. We will focus our message toward decreasing solid waste disposal costs at the TS.

7. Abigail reported that the HMHS Environmental Action Club has received an eleven-thousand-dollar grant to institute a composting program at the High School. The program will launch on Earth Day.
8. We discussed upcoming Earth Day planning. Earth Day is Saturday April 22 and we will hand out blue bags for roadside clean up. We also want to educate people about reducing the use of non-recyclable and single use materials. The theme will be that Every Day is Earth Day.
9. Bonnie reported that she has talked to the Conservation Commission about cleaning up the bank behind the fences at the TS that goes down to the wetland below. A discussion followed about whether volunteers or the DPW crew should get it cleaned up. We would like to help facilitate that clean up and we will continue to discuss it.
10. Bonnie proposed that we have a co-chairman for the committee. Pat volunteered to co-chair. A motion to appoint a co-chair was made by Ginni and seconded by Kristen. The motion was passed by unanimous vote. A motion to form three sub committees to address composting, community involvement and signage at the TS was made by Ginni and seconded by Pat. The motion was passed by unanimous vote

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 PM was made by Ginni and seconded by Bonnie. The vote to adjourn was passed without objection.

The next meeting will be March 16th 2023 at 7:00 PM at the library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia LaPree