

Draft Minutes

Hopkinton Waste Reduction Committee Meeting

Zoom meeting on September 17, 2020

Present: Bonnie Christie, Mary Carol, Diane Myler, Virginia Haynes, Elizabeth Gilmore, Jeff Donohoe, Patricia LaPree.

Absent: Abigail Stone, Rosalie Smith, Sally Ember.

The meeting was called to order by Bonnie at 7:01 PM. Bonnie notes that Abigale is absent because she is taking an on line course in Plastics tonight and Abigail will report back to the committee what she has learned once she has completed it.

1. Zoom meeting roll call: All resent announced their participation via zoom.
2. Review of the July meeting minutes. There were 2 corrections to be made. On line 8 Mylar should be spelled Myler and on line 53 god should be changed to good.

The motion to accept the minutes with changes was made by Diane and seconded by Ginnie. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative to accept the minutes with changes. Pat will correct the draft and send the final minutes out.

3. Group Share: has Corvid affected your household waste stream? The group discussed noticing that take out food containers are not all recyclable materials. Due to increased online ordering, there is more packaging materials to be recycled such as Amazon envelopes. Liz shares that she repurposed these envelopes as drawer liners. Bonnie suggested that we reach out to Jolene at the Transfer station to get her perspective on the changes in the recycling and waste stream during the pandemic.

4. Hopkinton School District 5R update: There has been no new progress on this front. There have been no meetings scheduled with the school board. Schools just opened this week. A discussion followed about giving the school board time to get the school year off the ground before trying to schedule meetings with them. The committee agreed to continue this discussion at our next meeting in October.

5. Composting update: There have been no meetings scheduled with the schools yet.

6. Plastics update: The letter Abigail wrote was approved by the Select Board and published in the Concord Monitor. Thank you, Abigail, for your hard work on your letter! In other news, Bonnie shared information about a study that has

found microplastics in plants. Bonnie had sent an article to the committee about McDonald's in the UK participating in the Terracycle program to reuse packaging materials. We also discussed the plastics value chain and how the plastics industry encourages recycling so that they can continue to produce plastics.

7. New signage at the Transfer Station: There are large yellow signs that better describe what goes where in the recycling bays. They are visible and are helpful to customers so there is a decrease in cross contamination in the bays.
8. Legislation: none of the bills concerning plastic use reduction that were before the legislature have moved forward. There was a brief discussion about why NH seems so reluctant to make laws in this area.
9. Slash Your Trash initiative: Bonnie had sent the committee information on this initiative that can be used at home. A discussion followed about how we as a committee can help the Town facilitate households to slash their trash. It was suggested that a sign be put at the exit of the transfer station thanking residents for doing their part to reduce the waste stream.
10. Other business: The Town's contract with Waste Management expires in December. The committee would like to know where the trash goes after Waste Management picks it up and whether other vendors are being considered.

A discussion followed regarding how the committee can facilitate waste reduction in the Town and to see if pay by bag has helped.

Jeff offered to collate the data from annual reports that show the waste tonnage and recycling tonnage annually since pay per bag was established. There was a discussion about how to educate and help residents recycle more consistently through face to face support from committee members. Pat will draft a proposal for how to schedule volunteers from the committee to take shifts at the transfer station and submit to the committee for approval. Pat will then reach out to the manager at the transfer station to see if this would be helpful to the staff.

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM was made by Mary Carol and seconded. The vote was unanimous to adjourn. .

The next meeting will be on October 15 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia LaPree