

**IWMAC Meeting Minutes – Final
Durham Town Hall
February 5, 2025, 8am**

In attendance: Nell Neal, Julie Kelley, Susan Richman, Peter Yost, Janet Perkins-Howland, Mike Pazdon, Paul Rasmussen, James Bubar, Sam Hewitt, Naomi Kornhauser, and guest Curtis Register.

Agenda approved.

Minutes from January 15 meeting approved.

DPW Update by Sam.

- DPW has been preoccupied with snow removal, more challenging because they are down 2 staff members
- Truck purchase is delayed due to uncertainty of EV funding.

Town Council Update by James.

- Discussion of changes to the definition of Student Rental, definitions for 'family' and 'unrelated household', and elimination of the 'three unrelated rule'.
- Curtis announced compost challenge to Council, encouraging their participation.

Planning Board Update by Paul. Presentations made for new Dunkin' Donuts and Riverwoods expansion.

Limiting Single Use Plastics (SUPs) – report by Nell

- Karen Edwards asked how best to provide water at upcoming retirement party. Nell recommended large water container (which Karen has purchased), other drinks in aluminum cans, and compostable paper goods.
- Nell distributed information for member review on Exeter proposed ordinance banning SUPs on town property and Concord MA bylaw banning sale of drinking water in single serving PET bottles.
- Goal for next meeting is to decide whether to recommend an ordinance or resolution to town council. Curtis said council could simply make a statement, or TC Communication.
- Suggestion made to feature sign at town events: “Please bring your reusable water bottle, we will supply the water.” The IWMAC

Expanding Composting in Durham

- Nell met with Sally to discuss the pilot for composting and how many people would participate. The Council should do the compost challenge to familiarize them with the process. We will need data to bring to the Council for any action/statements.
- Paul added, every household does things differently and average data represents the process; for example, say students that utilized prepared meals in contrast with preparing meals will produce a different amount of compost.

- Julie emphasized the need for more education about composting and attention-catching signs at the transfer station over the compost containers. David Langly was mentioned as a potential resource for education.
- Reaching out to students and getting kids enthused about composting is important. Currently all ORCSD schools compost, but HS students are the least compliant. The comment was made they are learning in school, but not at home.
- Peter pointed out that curbside is an entirely different process and we need to keep this in mind. Curtis mentioned that encouraging on site vs. curbside would be helpful and this could make a difference in the size of our curbside volume.
- Janet spoke to Ashley (Mr. Fox) and they are collaborating with Dover.
- Julie and Mike met with Erin and she is looking to see if there is an interest in a large grant funded project within UNH. Mike is looking into smaller grants that could fund a pilot.
- Contamination by herbicide and pesticide residue was the next discussion. Yard waste and grass clippings are excluded by Mr. Fox to avoid contamination. Brattleboro sends their testing out and Vt. requires a test once per year for heavy metals and pathogens. They do not take landscape waste. VT does not test for PFOS but Mass. does. Nell mentioned most herbicides and pesticides degrade and Brattleboro has not found them to be a problem so they do not test for them. It was mentioned testing the incoming stream may be a better approach than the finished compost.
- Mike mentioned we need some new verbiage under the Compost menu item on the web site explaining our focus on composting. He said he would pass something around for the committee to work on.

Minutes submitted by Naomi and Mike.