

**IWMAC Meeting Minutes – Draft
Durham Town Hall
February 19, 2025, 8am**

In attendance: Nell Neal, Julie Kelley, Susan Richman, Peter Yost, Mike Pazdon, Paul Rasmussen, James Bubar, and Naomi Kornhauser.

Agenda approved.

Minutes from February 5 approved with revisions

No DPW Update – Sam absent due to snow clean-up.

Town Council Update by James. Modification to 3 unrelated rule approved.

Planning Board Update by Paul. Covered by Council Update.

Single Use Plastics

- Nell read in NRRA newsletter about grants from NH the Beautiful that could be applied to signage at Transfer Station – will discuss with Sam. Contact at NRRA said standard signs are available for free, but there is a fee for custom A-frame sign. Peter commented that A-frame sign about composting at entrance to Transfer Station would be more visible than current sign.
- Susan will talk with appropriate state department about placing Transfer Station sign at intersection of Route 108 and Durham Point Road.
- Nell spoke with Sustainability Planner in Exeter, who advised that a resolution was preferable to an ordinance, because passing an ordinance ends up involving too many parties and diluting the message. She said we are welcome to use their wording. We agreed unanimously to propose a resolution. Nell and Susan will draft wording.
- Susan suggested that we print a DYK about the resolution. Nell will ask Todd to take pictures of the sustainable products at upcoming retirement party, to appear in Friday Updates.
- Susan explained NH Network statewide petition to reduce single-use plastic bags at grocery stores. Petition will go to NH Environmental and Agricultural Committee, Solid Waste Working Group, and corporate heads of stores. Susan will ask Em Friedrichs to suggest at the Town Council Roundtable that the Town of Durham sign on to the petition. Susan will also ask our State Reps to sign petition.

Composting

- Peter and Nell attended Agriculture Committee meeting to discuss composting and contamination. Peter noted that the Ag Committee is focused mostly on backyard composting whereas we are currently focused on curbside pickup. Contamination by herbicides and pesticides is not seen as a big issue.

- Nell sees possibilities for collaboration between committees, such as Farm Day demonstrations, composting workshops, and Ag Committee contributions to DYKs. Curtis Register volunteered to be liaison between two committees.
- Julie is going to compile data from all compost challenges, 5 or 6 total.
- We discussed using neighborhood social media to determine which neighborhoods would be interested in participating in composting pilot. Julie will check with Faculty Rd. neighborhood, Nell will check with Shearwater Rd. neighborhood.
- Purpose of pilot is to show community support for composting, which will help us advocate for a larger program.
- Mike will prepare application for Growth Grant, due March 18. Grants go up to \$4000, which would be enough to fund a pilot program with weekly pickups for one month.

We adjourned with intention to meet again on March 5.