

Durham Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee

Present: Julie Newman, acting chair; Tracy Wood, Dale Valena, Richard Gallant, Merle Craig, Guy Hodgdon, Jessie McKone, recorder; Blaine Cox (ORCSD business mgr.), guest

The minutes of the July 22nd meeting were approved.

Blaine Cox provided an update on activities and plans of the school district relating to recycling and the environment. All schools are separating food waste to be composted or used as pig feed. This had been going well last spring and there are plans to continue this for the new school year. Mast Way has had 8 to 10 gallons of food waste per day, but quantity has not been monitored at the other schools. ORHS has membership in the Governor's Recycling Program "Club" and as such has access to many educational videos and resources. The school districts facilities director is working to standardize the collection equipment for recycling in the schools. Older students may recycle more readily if the collection equipment is the same as when they first used it in the elementary schools. Effective labeling of the containers is important. Blaine has met with people in the Office of Sustainability Programs (OSP) and will meet with high school students to enlist help in assessing the schools "ecological footprint" as described in a book of that name. The school board will likely adopt the following goals for this year in the area of sustainability: 1) evaluate the districts ecological footprint, 2) improve recycling efforts, 3) encourage reduced paper use, 4) consider the environmental impact of the high school construction project. Don Lafferty, ORHS principal, would like students very involved and Dale Valena has met with students and staff who plan to consider various avenues of improvement of recycling and recycling attitudes this fall at the high school. Blaine will analyze the logistics of recycling in the schools to clarify who is responsible for recycling inside and outside each building. He will suggest videos and/or displays in the cafeteria and orientation remarks about recycling on opening days. Showing students data that they are making a difference is a way of encouraging students to do the "right" thing. The leaders of the student senate are interested and may be important role models for their peers. This committee plans to maintain a link to school officials, students and parents to serve as a resource when needed. Before school starts, committee members will help with a walk through evaluation for bin needs. Funds are needed to realize the goal of a (blue bin) in each classroom for paper recycling. The staff needs to know that these bins will not be used for any other purpose and are to be saved for use from year to year. Guy offered names of several possible vendors of durable bins. Merle mentioned America Recycles Day held in mid-November. She or Jessie will send Blaine some background information on this event.

Julie reported a need for recycling bins at community events like the Summer Concert series. Dale will ask Mike Lynch if there is an application process for groups like the MainStreet program or Rotary or UNH for when they are planning a downtown event. A checklist of requirements could include plans for recycling receptacles alongside trash receptacles. Guy has already applied to borrow the recycling trailer for next year's July 4th event, which is available free through the Governor's Recycling Program.

Tracy and Jessie reported that a Durham resident has offered to give a tent to this committee for use at the Swap Shop until the planned permanent structure is ready. Kevin Tonkin, a Swap Shop volunteer, may need assistance putting up the tent and Jessie will call for volunteers when a date can be established. Guy and Mike have given the OK for this effort. The Swap Shop will then have an "indoor" and an outdoor component. Julie will provide

contact info for the Durham community exchange so that someone may request a call for Swap Shop volunteers via that means. Jessie will ask to have this info placed on DCAT. Tracy has done a lot of calling for different dates and is getting positive responses although vacations seem to leave some holes in the schedule.

During this committee's report to the town council on July 22, Diana mentioned that this committee supports the passage of the proposed fee schedule for the SWMF. Residents may realize that there soon could be a ten dollar sticker required to dispose of electronic equipment like TVs and computers. Electronic waste is coming into the SWMF at a good clip. The electronics trailer was recently emptied--we paid Cyberjunk 18 cents per pound to take this waste. Jessie arranged for the Spring newsletter to be placed on the Durham website as suggested by Councilor Paine. The council also heard reports on the swap shop and compost bin sales.

Fall newsletter: Merle described options for paper, printing and general procedures. The committee is willing to use our grant funds to purchase kenaf paper since it is "tree-free" and highly sustainable. Soy ink cartridges will be investigated. Scotch tape is less expensive than seals when sealing for mailing. Julie suggested that entire future newsletters be "archived" on the Durham website and that converting files to .pdf could facilitate this effort. Committee members are reminded that first drafts of newsletter articles should be e-mailed to Merle and Jessie by August 12th or sooner if possible. Including photos in the newsletter may use a lot of ink. Options will be explored.

Household Hazardous Waste: The brochures that Julie showed us will be purchased and made available to the public at downtown locations. Guy will check if Safety Kleen has educational videos that can be shown on DCAT to enhance our fall theme. Dale will work on a slogan for the downtown signs and possible displays that will encourage HHW awareness. Tracy suggested our own presentation that could go on DCAT or be held publicly. Julie will bring in Fact in Action materials that may enhance our efforts.

July Recycling Status: OCC (corrugated cardboard) did go out on July 31st so that we received the higher price for the load. The August prices have fluctuated downward.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 26th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.