

Minutes

5-23-03

7:30 am

Durham Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee

Present: Diana Carroll, chair; Richard Gallant; Dale Valena; Tracy Wood; Merle Craig; John Kraus, town councilor; Jessie McKone, recorder

The minutes of the 4-25-03 meeting were approved with minor revisions.

Agenda Topics directly below correspond to numbered paragraphs, which follow:

1. IWMAC annual report to Town Council--June 2
2. Compost bin sale
3. Communication about Spring Clean Up enhancements
4. Northeast Resource Recovery Association meetings
5. Recycling Conference
6. Swap Shop update
7. Update from Mike Lynch
8. Feedback on Spring Newsletter
9. Other
 - a. CCEI activities
 - b. Grant money use
 - c. Composting demonstration/Durham Day
 - d. Review of school paper recycling
10. Next meeting set

1. Diana asked for committee members to draft short statements that can be presented to the Town Council as a way of giving a committee annual report. Many members will be able to attend Monday, June 2nd at 7pm and topics were divided accordingly: Merle-newsletter, Jessie-swap shop, Dale-school recycling, Diana-composting, Richard-hazardous construction & demolition debris guidelines, Julie-paper standard.

2. The compost bin order deadline has passed. The committee will help distribute the bins during the week of June 23-27. Merle will contact Shari to determine the times when our assistance is most needed. She will arrange to fill the needed slots on or prior to June 20th. Diana noted that between last year and this, 420 bins have been sold and the potential for removing weight from the waste stream through composting is significant for Durham. Further education about composting will encourage further participation. The town stands to benefit in various ways.

3. A news article describing ways some towns deal with student exodus and spring clean up was sent from a local business owner. The idea of devising a swap or flea market for student furnishings, to avoid so much waste, was the emphasis. Questions in the realm of who, where when and how would have to be researched. Does the UNH Office of Sustainability Programs promote anything of this sort ? The dumpsters at dorms as well as apartments usually overflow with unwanted items during move out. Richard voiced an expression of appreciation for the town workers who work in the background, getting unsightly messes cleaned up with amazing quickness.

4. Diana shared a sample agenda from NRRA that showed "market overview, plastics, computer waste, construction and demolition debris" as some of the meeting topics. John read from an NRRA publication that describes the NRRA as a non-profit membership

coalition of municipalities, individuals and businesses working together to promote environmentally and economically sound waste management practices. It offers cooperative marketing and cooperative purchasing. Doug Bullen and/or Bonnie McDermott of Public Works will attend NRRA meetings, but IWMAC members are also urged to attend the meeting held in Chichester on the second Wednesday of each month.

5. The NRRA sponsored Recycling Conference on June 2nd and 3rd is still taking registrants. IWMAC members are reminded there is still time to sign up. Contact Mike Lynch if you would like to go.

6. Merle made arrangements for a sign to be placed down town reminding residents that swap shop volunteers are welcomed. John reported to the Town Council at the May 5th meeting that he is interested in looking into the sale of appliance/electronic stickers by check at the SWMF. This could reduce the frustration factor of residents who have loaded a heavy item , only to be told that a sticker is needed and it cannot be purchased on Saturday. Mike has indicated that he is looking into the possibility. Tracy reminded that it is helpful to call organizations to ask if items like skis, organs or other specialty items are needed, so that these things can find a home one way or another, thus reducing solid waste for the town. There are currently about a dozen dedicated, regular volunteers. We should consider advertising College Days at the Swap Shop in August/September.

7. Mike Lynch sent a note expressing that he will attend IWMAC meetings regularly. He also reported that Doug Bullen now has a supervisory role at the SWMF in addition to his other responsibilities at Public Works. We will ask Mike to share statistics about the Spring and Fall Clean Ups and to share information about the status of the SWMF reconfiguration at the next meeting. Will a bid for the SWMF project be awarded in June ?

8. Diana shared praise from a resident about our recent newsletter. The resident was moved to share his own reduction ideas including returning hangers to the cleaners and mailing back extra pages that come with bills. Ideas circulated and Tracy offered that she will take packing peanuts for her business if folks want an outlet.

9a. Jessie gave an overview of actions of the Committee on Citizenship and Environmental Issues. Progress is being made toward communications on effective recycling for fraternities and sororities. Contact with landlords will be made in August to further the cause. A community clean up attended by students and other residents will be written up in the "Durham Community Exchange" - a publication of the Durham MainStreet Program.

9b. The subject of how to use our grant money should be placed on the next agenda. Someone will be designated to see about establishing an account that does not have to be exhausted with one fiscal year.

9c. Tracy suggests a workshop for residents on how to compost and wants to extend the instruction to include procedures for composting pet waste--a weighty component of the town's waste stream. Durham Day in September might be a good arena for such a workshop.

9d. Dale will make an appointment with school officials to see how things are going with paper recycling and will report on that at our next meeting.

10. The next IWMAC meeting is scheduled for June 20th at 7:30 am at Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

