

Durham Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee

Present: Tracy Wood, chair; Diana Carroll; Dale Valena; John Kraus, town councilor; Neal Ferris, guest; Doug Bullen, Public Works; Tim Knowles, OR Schools Facilities Director; Todd Selig, Town administrator; Jessie McKone, recorder

The minutes of the 3-15-04 meeting were approved after minor revisions.

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

1. Welcome visitors
2. Event announcements
3. Update from Public Works
4. Use of Town Listserve
5. Recycling in Durham Private Ways
6. Use of budget and grant monies
7. Spring newsletter feedback
8. Swap Shop Update
9. Ongoing Issues/New Ideas
10. Next meeting date

1. Eight year resident, Neal Ferris, attended today's meeting because of his interest in conservation of resources. He expressed interest in the range of initiatives taken up by IWMAC and will consider applying to become an IWMAC member.

Director of Facilities for the ORC School District, Tim Knowles attended at the invitation of the committee. He reported that, at the two elementary schools, student responsibility is emphasized as many students participate in collecting recycled paper. Every other Wednesday, Waste Management Inc. picks up approximately four 90-gallon totes of paper from each school. Student reps also help at ORMS. ORMS generates approximately seven 90-gallon totes per week of paper and two totes per week of co-mingled recyclables. Recycling levels have fallen off at ORHS, but two totes of paper per week and two totes of co-mingled recyclables are collected each week by Durham Public Works. Dale suggests that the schools-subcommittee of IWMAC meet over the next few months to plan some motivation strategies for ORHS that could be in place for the start of school in the fall. Tim would like to arrange with Public Works to have an onsite pick up for the SAU building and for the new offices in the Service Building across the street. He will report back to IWMAC about any food composting that is happening at ORMS and ORHS. IWMAC has also requested information about the new high school cafeteria and plans for use of washable (reusable) cafeteria trays. Diana suggested that Tim provide PR to local newspapers that would highlight students' recycling initiatives. Jessie suggested a letter of commendation from IWMAC to the schools for their efforts.

2. IWMAC members are asked to consider joining the UNH Office of Sustainability Programs compost demonstration outside of Durham Marketplace on May 15 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. We could display our bin for sale. Diana will contact Andy Ward at the UNH OSP for more information. Bin orders are due by May 17th.

Jessie will get info about options for attending the NRRA Recycling Conference at Waterville Valley on June 7 and 8. IWMAC members are encouraged to consider attending.

3. Doug reported that the planned upgrades to the Recycling Center will be finished in about one month. Railings next to the roll-offs will soon be in place. Doug and Bob Levesque designed a unique adjustable

system for accommodating the rails. Further paving, graveling, painting and establishment of turf will occur this month. Doug also provided statistics on monthly recycling totals including costs and revenue.

Spring Clean Up has employees working overtime and has made necessary a contracted driver for the roll-offs, since the usual driver must be pulled for other duties. The idea of conducting Spring Clean Up differently next year was discussed with interest. We should consider the advantages and disadvantages of residents bringing their own bulky waste to the Transfer Station during one "free week" next spring (as Newmarket and many other communities do). It was suggested that curbside assistance be provided for elderly residents. John will introduce the idea at the May 3rd Town Council meeting. Tim Knowles, a Newmarket resident, suggested that informing residents is key, and he has not heard of any resistance to this approach from his neighbors in Newmarket. This year, DPW drivers who come across appliances without the required ten-dollar electronic/appliance sticker will leave an informational sticker on the appliance stating that stickers may be purchased at Public Works. John reminded that we need a means of checking for residency if we have a week of "free" access to the Transfer Station.

4. Todd indicated that he composes the listserve material to be simply informative. He may make reference to further information to be found on the town web site. Tracy suggests that IWMAC items may be similar to the brief "Did you know ?" portion of our newsletter along with other IWMAC announcements. Tracy will accept committee input and e-mail it to Todd by Thursday afternoon for any given week. There was an article in the 4-29-04 Foster's about the Durham listserve. Residents could also be reminded of its availability in our fall newsletter.

5. Much of the discussion of Recycling in Private Ways is on hold until we can check with Merle about the status of letters that have been sent. Todd will review the letters and provide IWMAC with suggestions.

6. It was decided that it would be appropriate to draw upon our grant monies for payment of bills associated with our recent newsletter. Payment for Swap Shop and general expenditures will be drawn from IWMAC budget monies. Tracy has the committee account book and will forward bills to Lisa Beaudoin for payment.

7. Neal reported that he and his wife Sylvia were very impressed with the Spring newsletter. He was especially pleased to see an article that encouraged personal responsibility surrounding pet waste. Diana has received several positive comments from community members. We should seek responses from individuals featured in the newsletter to try to determine any impact of the articles.

8. Jessie plans to send out a Swap Shop Update to volunteers, that clarifies what gets accepted at the Swap Shop. The volunteers continue to be very hard working and enthusiastic. Some items can be culled at the end of the day while others may be culled after a month or so. Much depends upon space limitations. An idea to generate more interest in the Swap Shop is to have an Open House day allowing for picking up, but no dropping off.

9. Diana showed an article from the NY Times about Starbuck's "grounds for your garden" program. She plans to share the composting idea with the owner of Breaking New Grounds in Durham.

Jessie encourages folks to read the April 2004 edition of Reader's Digest pages 75-87 to see the positive ideas provided to "the masses" about 'green' living. She also recommends reading up on source reduction in container making by Stonyfield Farm. It could be a subject for a future newsletter article. Check out www.stonyfield.com/EarthActions/EnvironmentalPackaging.shtml

10. Our next meeting will be on June 14 at 7:30 am at Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 am.

