

Durham Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee

Present: Tracy Wood, chair; Dale Valena; Diana Carroll; Neal Ferris; Doug Bullen, Public Works; John Kraus, Town Council rep.; Jessie McKone, recorder;

The minutes of the 8-16-04 meeting were approved.

Agenda Topics below correspond to numbered paragraphs that follow:

1. Welcome speaker Bob Levesque, Town Engineer. Topic: Regional Wastewater Discharge Pipe Feasibility Study
2. Public Works – Doug Bullen – Monthly data and equipment update
3. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Review
4. School Recycling Update
5. Private Ways Recycling Options
6. Fall Newsletter
7. IWMAC report to Town Council
8. Durham Day
9. Fall Newsletter
10. Other
11. Next Meeting

1. Bob Levesque, Durham Town Engineer, presented the committee with background information on plans for a feasibility study of a regional wastewater ocean discharge pipe. The presentation is supplementary to the information provided to the committee by State Representative Emma Rous in July (2004). His points included the following:

Treated wastewater from the towns surrounding Great Bay, is deposited into Great Bay. Concern for the ecology of the Bay as well as concern for increasing individual community costs (to keep up with EPA standards) prompted Senator Prescott and Senator Green to propose a study for discharging wastewater as far as 5 to 8 miles out into the ocean. The \$200-300 million price tag for such a project could be shared by many towns in this region. Towns are currently spending an average of \$6 million every five years to satisfy increasingly stringent EPA standards and spending \$60,000 a year in maintenance. Bob expects these figures to triple due to further EPA requirements like removing pharmaceutical wastes from the wastewater. An environmental impact study is on hold until the feasibility study can be done. The NH Department of Environmental Services oversees the decision making in this process. An engineering firm, Metcalfe and Eddy, who were the engineers for Boston's Big Dig have bid on the contract for the feasibility study. If an ocean pipe were constructed, diffusion of the wastewater over a large area would be required.

This region has a water crisis. Much of this season's rainfall has not increased the flow of rivers, like the Lamprey, since the river water is quickly drawn into aquifers that are very low.

Durham's wastewater does not recharge its water supply since it is released into Great Bay. The Lee well, responsible for some of Durham's water, may be getting recharged by the wastewater of towns further north of Durham.

The next meeting of the SB 70 Regional Ocean Outfall Study Commission will be on 9-22-04.

Alternatives to an ocean discharge pipe include continued maintenance and upgrades to individual community wastewater systems. Requiring coastal towns like Portsmouth to provide the secondary treatment that inland towns provide would help preserve the ocean ecology. Better education about regional water limitations could reduce irresponsible water use.

2. Doug summarized his monthly recycling data. Revenue for paper and corrugated cardboard remains good. The cost of recycling co-mingled recyclables is going down while the cost of dumping trash is increasing. Durham's contract for dumping at Turnkey Landfill outlines a 3% increase per year over the ten year contract.

The new Sanitation Dep't. vehicles are expected to arrive in October (before the snow flies--we hope).

3. Topic #3 above was deferred, and will be discussed at the next meeting.

4. Dale reported that she and Jessie inventoried the high school bins for paper recycling in August. They worked with Facilities Director Tim Knowles to restore the system that had been affected by construction over the summer. They also met with the faculty liaison, Kate Dobe Engstrom to discuss this years plan for collecting paper and co-mingled items. Planned ongoing discussions will help to identify glitches. Special Ed students and Student Senate representatives will likely participate. Students seeking community service projects may also get involved. School monies were tapped to pay for the laminating of a student-designed poster. Every classroom bin for paper now has this poster attached.

5. Diana and Merle met with the Planning Board last month to bring IWMAC suggestions for recycling in Private Way developments of Durham. The Planning Board members showed support for the suggestions and requested names of local companies that pick up both recycling and trash. Existing Private Way developments may have roads that don't meet the standards required for Town trucks to travel on. This is one reason given for not providing waste services. Public Works could pick up from these developments if all of the trash and recycling were brought to one location on the edge of the property. Could the condo associations work something out so that that would not be a hardship for elderly residents of the Private Way? The Planning Board is encouraged to look at future applications for Private Ways with an eye toward requiring a plan for recycling. The Sprucewoods roads do satisfy the compaction testing that would support Town truck usage.

6. Jessie reminded committee members of the deadline for articles for the Fall newsletter. Layout and editing will proceed over the next couple of weeks. Printing will begin on October 4th. Folding and labeling is planned for October 13, 14 and 15. Diana will seek volunteers to help with the folding and labeling.

7. Tracy will prepare a committee report for the Town Council and will e-mail it to IWMAC members for input. The report is to be given at the Town Council meeting on October 4th. John suggests Spring Clean Up info.

8. It was noted that Durham Day was not as heavily attended as last year. Still there was enthusiasm from those who did stop by the IWMAC display. Tracy suggests including the list of all recyclables accepted in Durham in next years display. The family who won the compost bin had "been wanting one for some time" and they were thoroughly delighted at winning. DCAT recorded information given by Jessie and Diana.

9. Diana suggests getting info from the Dover program on recycling aseptic containers. She also suggests the use of the downtown "white signs" for advertising Composting of leaves and/or use of Paper leaf bags. Signs to promote paper leaf bags will be provided to Houghton's, Brooks and Durham MarketPlace by IWMAC. Tracy will send messages for the List Server about the recent influx of items at the Swap Shop and about the use of the Fix-It bulletin board at the Swap Shop.

10. The next IWMAC meeting will be on October 25 at 7:30 am at Town Hall.
The meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.