

Durham Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee

Present: Tracy Wood, chair; Merle Craig; Amy Cunningham, Shelley Mitchell, John Kraus, Town Councilor; Todd Selig, Town Administrator; Trish Murdoch, guest; Jessie McKone, recorder

The minutes of the 3-18-05 meeting were approved.

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

1. Welcome New Members
2. Public Works data
3. Spring Clean Up
4. Spring Newsletter
5. Swap Shop Volunteer Coordinator
6. UNH RENU
7. Household Hazardous Waste
8. Green Buildings
9. Other
10. Next meeting

1. Amy and Shelley are new committee members. Current IWMAC members are delighted to have them join us. Their expressed interest in the committee's initiatives bodes well for continued project successes. Trish Murdoch attended as a representative of the Environmental Hazards Management Institute of Durham. Welcome, everyone !

2. Since Doug Bullen of Public Works was not able to attend this time, Tracy distributed his recycling data reports. They will be scrutinized at the next meeting. Jessie checked with the PW office subsequent to the meeting regarding the orders received for compost bins and rain barrels. So far this year, orders have been minimal. It was suggested that we consider setting up a display at the UNH Solarfest to "advertise" their sale. Trish submitted a letter to the committee and to Public Works regarding the bins. Her agency creates individually tailored educational materials on composting and other environmental issues that we may want to consider purchasing.

3. Todd shared the substance of his recent meeting with the Durham Landlord's Association. Some Durham landlords are unhappy with the early May date for Spring Clean Up and have requested that the date be moved to coincide with students moving out. They understand the issue of junk on the streets at the time of graduation and have proposed as an alternate request that the transfer station be open to landlords for free access at the time of the move out. Each committee member expressed an unwillingness to make that concession to landlords. Issues cited included that Spring Clean Up already costs the town in the range of \$35,000. It is offered as a courtesy service to residents. Landlords get the same transfer station permit and two bulky waste coupons for their \$25.00 as any resident does. Owners of multi-units are running a business and the town does not pick up for businesses. Other businesses (such as contractors) might decide to ask for special requests if we make this exception. Tracy indicated that she is in favor of eliminating Spring Clean Up altogether and would like to have the committee consider this possibility at a future meeting. John expressed resistance to the idea of eliminating Spring Clean Up. One committee member suggested that landlords consider establishing a deposit system that would allow renters to recoup their deposit if renters take their sofa, mattresses and other bulky items with them when they move. Another committee member reported that she was aware of several situations in which landlords have already built in increases to absorb the cost of trash disposal. Committee members received a copy of a letter from resident, Richard Gallant encouraging the committee to think of students as residents. Trish suggested that the committee consider creating an educational information sheet that could be provided to all students, addressing how to plan ahead for move out and highlighting reasons for being stewards of their own 'gear'. To examine this further, some IWMAC members will meet with some DLA members and Tracy will set this up.

4. John praised the value of the newsletter effort and expressed that it was a great thing for Durham. Shelley asked if we have thought of a theme for the fall newsletter saying that the use of a theme was appealing. Jessie indicated that she would put to use some of the practical advice offered about sustainable gardening and sustainable landscaping in the newsletter. Amy suggested that we find more ways of getting the information out to renters. Copies are available to the public at the Durham Public Library, Town Hall, the Public Works Office and via the Durham web site. Added reminders of its availability can be put out periodically on the List Server and DCAT.

5. Tracy and Jessie described the job of the Swap Shop volunteer coordinator. Each has taken on the duties of lining up the Swap Shop volunteers for 18-month stints. Jessie would like to have another committee member or possibly a Swap Shop volunteer take over the job. She suggests rotating the job among committee members at 6-12 month intervals. Because there are numerous volunteers, it has been possible to sign up volunteers on an every-other-month basis so that no one is overworked. If someone outside the committee becomes the coordinator, then a committee member would still serve as a liaison. Shelley suggests developing a job description for this post.

6. The UNH RENU program has developed a schedule for when they need volunteers to help collect and sort items that are not wanted by exiting students. Jessie put out an e-mail to Swap Shop volunteers and has received several offers from folks willing to volunteer for RENU throughout May. A general call for volunteers was included in "Down To Earth" and the RENU staff expressed appreciation for this. They will be advertising a yard sale, for items collected, via various new outlets and the yard sale is slated for May 28th. The location is to be announced.

7. Tracy introduced the idea of trying to establish a permanent collection site for Household Hazardous Waste in Durham. Written HHW materials from the State, obtained by Richard Gallant, were provided to new members. Decisions on when and how to move ahead with this idea will be addressed at a future meeting. Trish volunteered to research this issue and Tracy offered to be her contact on the committee. Coordination with Shari Plitkins, Durham's certified Household Hazardous Waste official might be a first step. A (customized-for-Durham) EHMI "hazardous waste information wheel" could be a useful outreach tool.

8. Merle reported on a recent tour she had of a green building in NYC that is located right next to "ground zero" of the former World Trade Center. She said that those touring the new building could detect an obvious improvement in the air quality going from outdoors to indoors. She has records of design details that she will share when IWMAC's green building subcommittee reconvenes. New members interested in joining this group should contact Merle.

9. Amy plans to help work on school recycling issues including the subject of purchasing recycled paper. She will connect with Dale for background information about IWMAC initiatives with the schools.

Jessie suggests that committee members check out the following link that is a write up of the Regional Wastewater Group meeting that Neal attended: www.fosters.com. To find the article go to 'search' in left hand menu. Type in NH is Sinking in Sewage and you will find the article written on 2-27-05.

At the www.epa.gov site it is possible to select Enviromapper to locate hazardous waste problem areas around the country.

10. The next meeting is scheduled for TUESDAY, May 17th at 7:30 am at Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.