

Durham Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee

Present: Shelley Mitchell, chair; Monica Smith; Neal Ferris; Doug Bullen, Public Works Rep.; Jessie McKone, recorder

Also present: residents Chuck Baldwin, Henry Smith, and Amanda Merrill; Town Administrator Todd Selig

Unable to attend: Dale Valena and Mark Morong, Town Council Rep.

Agenda Topics below correspond to numbered paragraphs that follow:

1. Welcome/Public Input
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Durham Day Display
4. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day
5. ORCSD Recycling Review
6. Fall Newsletter Outline
7. Report from Public Works
8. Spring Cleanup Update
9. Other
- 9a. Budget Request 9b. Right To Know CD 9c. Swap Shop Party 9d. Screening Dumpsters
10. Next meeting: **October 3rd**

1. Dr. Amanda Merrill was introduced and she provided handouts describing the goals and procedures from the Center for Undergraduate Research Program at UNH. Students from any department at UNH may apply to do research for stipends or credit. Opportunities within the Town and specifically associated with IWMAC initiatives have been identified. Amanda will be in touch with Shelley if a student or students show interest. John Halstead of the Resources and Economics department has been identified as a potential faculty mentor because of his background in Solid Waste.

2. The minutes of the August 1, 2006 IWMAC meeting were approved. (Moved by Neal, seconded by Jessie -- unanimous vote.)

Shelley announced that she would like committee members to review our annual calendar (in the same packet with the minutes) and e-mail her suggestions for changes between now and the next meeting.

3. Jessie indicated that she has plans for updates to the IWMAC display board that will be shown at Durham Day. She asked for help with set up of the tent and displays. Chuck offered his truck and assistance with set up. Doug is planning to borrow the recycle-mobile from NRRA for the day. Shelley, Jessie, Dale and Chuck will represent the committee during the event. Handouts and practical messages related to composting, HHW, the Swap Shop, volunteer opportunities, etc. are planned. Jessie suggested that the Durham Day planning be moved to the July or August agenda for next year to give members more opportunity for planning the display.

4. Doug reported that there are still slots for residents who wish to sign up for this year's Household Hazardous Waste collection scheduled for Saturday, September 9th from 8am to noon. Public Works employee, Bonnie McDermott, is the certified leader of the collection. Todd had a question about batteries. They do not need to be brought to the HHW collection. Ordinary alkaline batteries may be thrown in the trash, but all other types of batteries may be left with Transfer Station personnel, at any time. They will be routed for proper recycling and/or disposal.

5. Jessie stated that no school district recycling report is available this month. She will have a report for the October meeting.

6. Several draft articles for the fall newsletter have been submitted so far. Jessie will conference with individuals on articles and will eventually share the entire newsletter draft with all IWMAC members for their input prior to going to print. The target date for sending the newsletter to the printer is September 26 and the target for getting it in the mail is October 12. Doug indicated that the start of Fall Cleanup has been pushed back one week. This year it will begin on November 13th. (Last year it started on Nov. 7th.) Most leaves should have fallen from the trees by then. Chuck asked how the newsletter reaches renters and students. Encouraging the DLA to disseminate extra copies to their renters was suggested. Announcing in the Friday Updates that the newsletter is available online and at Town Hall, Public Works and the Public Library would be another approach. Communication outlets through DIWUL could be explored as well.

7. Doug provided Town recycling statistics through August. Revenue for Corrugated Cardboard is up to \$80.00 per ton. A large shipment of fluorescent tubes was shipped out for proper disposal this week. Residents have been generally quite responsible about bringing them to the Transfer Station. Doug also noted that there was a record 525 cars visiting the Transfer Station last Saturday and corresponding to this there has been a lot of material to move. Jessie shared comments that she has received from Diana Carroll regarding corrugated cardboard recycling. Diana would like the businesses in the vicinity of the courthouse to recycle cardboard. The Irving station does recycle cardboard. Neal suggested that IWMAC or Todd publicize a list of businesses that do not recycle as a way of nudging beneficial changes. Todd indicated that it would not make sense to tell businesses that they *must* recycle since the Town has required them to be responsible for their own trash. Many business owners understand that by recycling, they reduce the tonnage that they must pay for as trash.

8. Shelley and Jessie shared a draft of a Council Communication that will be brought forward regarding IWMAC's Spring Cleanup recommendations. Todd shared some of his personal observations about the recommendations and outlined the history of the decision to charge for entrance to the Transfer Station. It costs the Town to staff the Transfer Station. Those residents wishing to enter the Transfer Station bore the cost, since other residents never visited -- preferring to utilize the curbside services already provided by the Town. The operation of the Swap Shop has changed the culture of the Transfer Station. Now residents don't seem to understand why they must pay to access the Swap Shop. By taking and reusing items residents reduce the amount of solid waste that must be shipped to the landfill, thus providing the Town with a cost reduction. Todd plans to ask department heads for their outlook regarding elimination of Spring Cleanup at a meeting on Thursday, September 7th. That would include Code Enforcement, Fire, Police, Public Works, etc. Todd checked the Solid Waste Ordinance to try to clarify how a resident is defined in regard to eligibility to obtain a permit to the transfer station. Monica suggested that the address on utility bills be considered as sufficient evidence of residency. Shelley suggested the option of instituting the changes for a year, acknowledging that change is hard but that people adapt. Neal would like assurances that if Spring Cleanup is eliminated that reuse would occur at the same level it does as when people place items curbside. The curbside placement allows for scavenging that Neal feels is very beneficial. Doug feels that 90-95% of households use Spring Cleanup services. Todd is concerned about receiving angry phone calls if the service is eliminated.

Monica indicated support for trash pickup for Private Ways as it reduces the incidence of rodents. She feels that privatization lends to less responsibility toward community. Shelley reiterated that Transfer Station Access is a priority to residents. She would like to move the discussion forward to the Council and asked that an effort be made toward action so that the issue does not languish.

9a. Shelley announced that she submitted a 2007 IWMAC budget request of \$575.00 as of August 18th.

9b. A CD of the NH Right To Know Workshop, which aired on DCAT, is being circulated among IWMAC members. Contact Shelley if you have not seen it yet.

9c. Shelley thanked Dale and Jessie for the work they put into the Swap Shop Volunteer Recognition Party held on August 17th. A good time was had by all.

9d. Todd asked for committee feedback about his approach in dealing with a business owner who has refused to comply with the ordinance that requires the screening of dumpsters from public view. The consensus was to go by the book, since there are no grounds in this case for granting an exception.

10. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 am. The next meeting is scheduled for October 3rd at 7:30 am at Town Hall Council Chambers.