

Minutes

10-3-06

7:30 am

Durham Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee

Present: Neal Ferris, acting chair; Dale Valena; Doug Bullen, Public Works Rep.; Mark Morong, Town Council Rep., Jessie McKone, recorder

Also present: residents Chuck Baldwin, Henry Smith and briefly, Julian Smith and grandson William.

Unable to attend: Shelley Mitchell and Monica Smith

Agenda Topics below correspond to numbered paragraphs that follow:

1. Welcome/Public Input
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Durham Day Summary
4. HHW Collection Day Summary
5. Recycling by Durham Businesses
6. Fall Newsletter Update
7. Report from Public Works
8. Spring Cleanup Update
9. Other
10. Next Meeting date: Tuesday, November 7, 2006 at 7:30 am

1. Neal welcomed everyone. Julian indicated that he had stopped by to say that Monica Smith was unable to attend today's meeting. There was no other public input.

2. The minutes of the 9-5-06 IWMAC meeting were approved. (Mark abstained from voting on this since he was not present at the September meeting.)

3. Dale, Doug, Chuck and Jessie all had positive comments about their roles at Durham Day. It was estimated that the attendance was bigger than last year. Ideas for future IWMAC participation were tossed out including sponsoring a junk sculpture contest and a Swap Shop bike contest. Such efforts could encourage involvement at the schools. Also a compost bin raffle, reusable grocery bag raffle or other such effort could be arranged. Jessie suggested moving the planning of the IWMAC Durham Day activities to our June or July 2007 agenda to allow time to update our display board and do other planning. The use of the "Recyclemobile" from the NRRA worked well and the new committee tent was sturdy thanks to the three-person erection crew of Jessie, Chuck and Henry. Chuck's Recycle Bicycle brought many smiles and initiated many a conversation.

4. Doug reported that the Household Hazardous Waste collection went well. All residents who called to register were accommodated and there were six or seven "no shows". Over-booking was suggested, but Doug thinks there is a general decline in the numbers needing to get rid of hazardous materials -- perhaps people are purchasing fewer hazardous materials or are using them up. Public Works is still awaiting the report from Clean Harbors who conducted the collection. Some oil paints that had been collected at the Transfer Station were delivered to the Clean Harbors people. Mark suggested that usable paint be left in a section of the Swap Shop (during the warm months) so that others might be able to use them up. It was suggested that reminders about proper hazardous waste handling could be run on DCAT and the Friday Updates throughout the year.

5. After some discussion, it was decided that Neal would work with Doug to draft a letter to businesses that explains the opportunities that businesses have regarding pickup of recyclables. There are some new businesses in town that could be doing more to recycle and would benefit from a friendly letter such as that proposed. The Town pays Waste Management to empty the corrugated cardboard dumpster behind Young's Restaurant. Doug will consider placing additional smaller containers in places where the Town crews can collect. Dale urged a review of the placement of

recycling barrels on Main Street saying that obvious recycling barrels would help make a statement about our Town values.

6. Jessie showed the final draft of the 'Down To Earth' newsletter and praised B+B Printing for their quality product and their pleasant and professional attitude. The newsletters will be delivered from the printer this week and Dale has been phoning for volunteers to help in the folding and mailing effort. The target date for mailing is October 12th. Dale noted the fine layout and clipart work done by Jessie. Neal feels this may be the best newsletter to date. Henry suggested that a stack of newsletters be left at the Durham Laundromat (in addition to those made available at Town Hall, Public Works and the Durham Library). Neal suggested a clarification that should be made in the upcoming December/January newsletter: that newspaper to be recycled can **either** be placed in a brown paper bag **or** be tied with cotton or jute twine.

7. Doug reported that the Transfer Station will soon be getting four new roll-off containers to replace old ones with weld problems. The need for a 'purging' at the Swap Shop was expressed. A Wednesday in November will be selected. Volunteers will work with Public Works employees to get rid of some items that nobody seems to want. While on the topic of the Swap Shop, Mark shared the drawing of the proposed Swap Shop extended roofline. IWMAC members were approving, especially since there is potential to get donated materials and volunteer labor. Mark will show the drawing to Code Enforcement Officer, Tom Johnson and Town Administrator, Todd Selig, while Doug will share it with Public Works Director, Mike Lynch in an attempt to get the project moving along.

8. Jessie reminded committee members to plan to attend the Town Council meeting on October 16 since the issue of Spring Cleanup has been placed on the agenda for that evening. Folks will have the opportunity to address the Council during the 'Public Comments' portion of the meeting. Councilors may wish to address questions to IWMAC members during their discussion of the topic later on the agenda.

9. Other:

a. Neal has spoken with a member of the Great Bay Estuary Commission who thinks that the "Big Pipe" idea for handling regional wastewater is likely to be scrapped. He will keep us posted on further reports coming from the Commission.

b. Neal shared an article from the Fall 2006 Natural Resources Defense Council's magazine 'On Earth' about the growing threat of pharmaceuticals poisoning our rivers. He will lend the magazine to anyone wishing to read the article. He acknowledged Tracy Wood's effort to bring this to our attention in a past newsletter article. In that (Spring 2006) article readers were urged **not** to throw any type of medication (prescription or over-the counter) into the toilet, but to place it in the trash instead. Wrapping pill bottles before putting them in the trash is seen as an extra protective step that can be taken.

10. The meeting adjourned at 9 am. The next meeting will be on November 7th, 2006 at 7:30 am at Town Hall.