

Durham Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee

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

Also present: residents Nicole Moore, Fil Glanz, Jerry Needell, and Julian Smith

Agenda Topics below correspond to numbered paragraphs that follow:

1. Welcome/Public Input
2. Carbon Coalition, Cool Cities, and ICLEI efforts toward reducing green house gas emissions
3. Approval of Minutes
4. IWMAC Activity Calendar for 2007
5. Report from Public Works
6. Swap Shop Issues
7. Fall Newsletter
8. Spring Cleanup Decision
9. Other 9a. IWMAC membership 9b. Annual Report 9c. Chair Position
10. Adjourn and Next meeting

1. Shelley welcomed several residents and asked if there was any public input. Julian Smith expressed disappointment with the intransigence of the Town Council on the issue of Spring Cleanup that IWMAC had brought before the Council on October 16th. He feels sorry that the subject did not get any real good discussion and suggested that the Town Administrator and Town Councilors be reminded that the issue of free access to the Transfer Station was a part of the recommendation that was not dealt with at all. He added that he would like to see the Transfer Station open one more day per week and that more citizens be encouraged to go since it is a community center.

2. Fil Glanz and Jerry Needell were present to share their ideas for joining in the national trend of towns and cities in making commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by town. IWMAC has no specific plans to spearhead these efforts, but several committee members are interested in joining a working group to further the goals, be they part of the statewide initiative known as the Carbon Coalition, part of the Sierra Club/US Mayor's initiative known as Cool Cities or part of the international effort known as ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Issues). Dale read aloud the resolution of the Carbon Coalition. After some discussion it was agreed that Jerry would write a Council Communication to present the resolution of the Carbon Coalition to see if the Town Council would move to place it as a referendum/warrant item on the March ballot. If Councilors reject the idea it is possible to gather resident signatures to get a referendum/warrant going. Mark and Neal expressed reservations about any resolution that suggests that the efforts would protect the economy or stimulate jobs and investments. Gerry will find out if Durham could develop its own phrasing. Inviting a speaker from the Carbon Coalition Speaker's Bureau to speak with the Town Council was suggested. Jerry will remain in communication with IWMAC.

3. The minutes of the October 3, 2006 IWMAC meeting were approved.

4. Shelley presented the draft of the 2007 IWMAC activity calendar. Suggestions were made for minor revisions. It was noted that it is a dynamic document that will likely be added to over time.

5. Neal and Doug are working on a draft of a letter from IWMAC/PW about recycling opportunities for Durham businesses. Chuck suggested a personal follow up to businesses some time after the letters are issued as seems needed. He would help with such an effort. Part of the follow up could be a letter to businesses that are doing a good job with recycling or a visit to personally thank them for their efforts. Better arrangement of barrels and better signage will be evaluated for the Main Street area in an effort to publicize Durham's pride in recycling. Contamination of recyclables is a challenge. Doug will provide product catalogs for IWMAC members to examine in preparation for improvements along Main Street. Nicole noted that improvements by the Durham Public Library are needed, as well. It was suggested that we consider clever and possibly humorous ways to alert people to the importance of separating trash and recyclables. The Durham Irving

Station has approached Public Works asking them to collect their corrugated cardboard and co-mingled recyclables. Doug is working with them to develop solutions. Irving's proactive approach is appreciated.

6. Mark has broached the subject of a Swap Shop addition with the Town Code Officer and Town Administrator but has not had substantive discussion yet. If approved, the actual work could be achieved fairly quickly in the Spring once the weather is conducive to such projects. There was consensus to keep the Swap Shop open during winter weather, but to remind volunteers to use their judgment in closing the Swap Shop if we are experiencing dangerous (road) conditions in any season.

The Town Administrator has suggested that Swap Shop volunteers receive a free entrance permit to the Transfer Station and Recycling Center. Doug requested clarification as to whether two bulky waste coupons would accompany the free permit. There was consensus that they would not. IWMAC will maintain a list of active volunteers so that Public Works will know of those whom are eligible for the free stickers. Any member of the public expressing an interest in volunteering while at Public Works will be referred to Dale Valena first. Jessie presented an information sheet for new Swap Shop volunteers that she would like committee input on. It will be formalized and then issued to volunteers who pick up free stickers at Public Works. As a point of information, it was verified that extra permit stickers are issued free for placement upon all the vehicles owned by a given property owner. (The current purchase price for the original annual permit is \$25.00.)

Jessie and Dale will try to organize a clean out date for the Swap Shop that will not be during public hours of operation.

7. Jessie shared her intention to step down as editor of the Down To Earth newsletter, having spent five years in that position. She expressed willingness to help anyone on the committee to take over that position and will e-mail an overview of the steps needed to get the newsletter published and mailed. She suggested that the committee consider other ways of getting its educational outreach delivered since the newsletter effort needs to be done by someone with a lot of time to devote. If no one on the committee chooses to take on this responsibility, options include searching for a volunteer with the appropriate skills who is not on the committee, switching to an exclusively electronic newsletter, making more frequent contributions to the Friday Updates, etc. February is the time frame for beginning work on a Spring newsletter.

8. The IWMAC Spring Cleanup recommendations were discussed at the October 16, 2006 Town Council meeting. Council Chairman, Neil Nimon asked Shelley whether IWMAC would consider researching fee options. The fee options might be methods by which the Town could assess individuals for bulky waste besides the existing option of assessing a blanket \$25.00 per year. Doug reminded us that he has suggested individual fees for tires and propane tanks in the past. Jessie questioned the number of trucks that enter the Transfer Station weekly and seem to have an endless supply of bulky waste coupons. Under an effective scenario it might be possible to eliminate the entrance fee without losing revenue. There was consensus to ask Neil to follow up with the Council in requesting that Todd Selig and/or Mike Lynch prepare fee options. The IWMAC members prefer to serve in an advisory capacity on whatever fee options are offered by Todd Selig and/or Mike Lynch. There was disappointment expressed by the Committee with the Council's decision to continue with Durham's traditional Spring Cleanup. Access to the Transfer Station still needs to be addressed along with a final decision.

9a. Shelley thanked Chuck for joining IWMAC and for making contributions even before he became an official member. Welcome Chuck ! Shelley also shared that Monica Smith has tendered her resignation from IWMAC. We are sorry to see her go. Nicole Moore attended today as a possible new member.

9b. The due date for the write up of the IWMAC annual report is December 1st. Shelley will prepare a write up based largely on the report to Town Council done in August.

9c. Shelley will be starting work on her PhD and will no longer have time to serve as Chair of IWMAC. She has asked committee members to consider stepping into this role. Barring any takers, we could consider rotating the Chair duties. Shelley will serve as Chair one more time (during the December meeting). The committee thanked her for the excellent job she has done as Chair and for her dedication from "day-one".

10. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 am. **The next meeting** will be on Tues., **Dec. 5th** at 7:30 am at Town Hall.