

Minutes

2-6-07

7:30 am

Durham Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee

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

Also present: resident Henry Smith

Agenda Topics below correspond to numbered paragraphs that follow:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Public Input
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Updates
 - a. NH Climate Change Resolution on March ballot
 - b. NH Carbon Coalition Summit Meeting 1-16-07
 - c. IWMAC Newsletter status
 - d. New Permit Structure for the Transfer Station & Recycling Center
 - e. IWMAC Annual Report
 - f. Recruiting of New Members
5. Report from Public Works
 - a. Recycling Letter to Businesses
 - b. Recycling Containers Downtown
 - c. Swap Shop Addition
6. Other
7. Next Meeting/Adjournment

1. New IWMAC members, Jenna Jambeck and Kim Nadeau were welcomed to their first IWMAC meeting.

2. Public Input in the form of e-mails received was shared and discussed. Resident, Scott Hovey, had e-mailed the Durham Town Administrator with concerns about non-residents entering the Transfer Station and possibly taking and selling items that were intended for the Durham Swap Shop. Added monitoring for entrance permits is being done but some residents are not placing their permits in plain view on the front windshield, which makes the process more difficult. Doug is looking into getting smaller stickers that would be less likely to inhibit a driver's view of the road. This may provide some improvement for the process next year. IWMAC volunteers do not police for resale of Swap Shop items. The general goal in running the Swap Shop is to reuse items and thus keep them from ending up in the landfill at the Town's expense.

Resident, Stuart Parker, e-mailed examples of the handling of household trash and recyclables in different towns in which he has resided. He feels the Town could save considerable money if residents are required to bring their own trash and recyclables to the Transfer Station. During discussion it was noted that residents are reluctant to give up the annual Spring Cleanup and would likely react unfavorably to losing the weekly curbside pickup. Many feel that it is the only service they receive for their taxes. Doug has tried to compare costs of different approaches to handling wastes and recyclables. If residents were bringing their own, funding would be needed to keep the Transfer Station and Recycling Center open six or seven days a week. It was also noted that there is more efficient fuel usage (and reduction of carbon dioxide emissions) if the Town trucks provide this service as opposed to every resident making a trip to the Transfer Station each week. Chuck wondered if residents have seen any kind of cost comparisons. Doug estimated that the amount for curbside pickup paid by someone owning a \$300,000 property amounts to approximately \$10.00 per week. Chuck will reply to Stuart with a basic summary of our discussion. Stuart also provided information about current bills being debated in the NH Legislature. Jenna volunteered to track ongoing legislation of interest to IWMAC and keep us apprised of relevant initiatives. She will also be in touch with Jen Berry to ask about receiving the legislative updates that the Town Councilors receive.

3. The minutes of the 12-5-06 meeting were approved.

4a. Dale reminded committee members of our need to follow through on publicizing the fact that the NH Climate Change Resolution will be on the Durham ballot on March 13th. Plans were outlined to use e-mail lists, posters, the Administrator's Friday Updates and other means of disseminating the information without using paper. Dale and Jessie will work on wording for e-mails. Kim and Shelley will provide info to the Elementary, Middle and High Schools, Jenna will be in contact with UNH programs, Doug will put up a sign at the Transfer Station. Mark has offered his barn for sign making. Dale will look into getting folks to hold signs at the polls on March 13th. Henry and Mark will provide a reminder about this effort at the next Town Council meeting.

4b. Dale summarized the first meeting of the Oyster River Carbon Challenge that was held on 1-16-07. Sixty-five people representing Durham, Lee, Madbury, Dover and Newmarket were in attendance. Durham and surrounding towns will be a model for how other NH towns can organize to get residents to take up the challenge of reducing carbon dioxide /greenhouse gas emissions. Although various IWMAC members will actively support this effort, it will not be an IWMAC initiative. IWMAC members believe it will be an appropriate theme for the Spring Down To Earth newsletter, however. Jessie mentioned the parallel efforts that Durham is involved in regarding the energy audit that PSNH will be doing on Town facilities. Also, the work of students in Professor Faraq's classes includes conducting benchmark Energy Star assessments. This effort coincides with the EPA's New England Community Energy Challenge, and Durham was chosen as the first Town in New England to participate in the challenge according to last week's Friday Updates. Doug indicated that Public Works vehicles are trying out biodiesel-blended fuel to assess engine wear and determine if the added cost is worth it. Jessie offered to send Doug a link for grants available through DES for alternative fuel use.

4c. Kim has offered to apprentice with Jessie on efforts to get out a Spring newsletter. Various offers for writing articles were made. Jessie will generate a layout over the next couple of weeks and is eager to include topics related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the Oyster River Carbon Challenge. Public Works will prepare pages on Spring Cleanup and Stormwater issues.

4d. Shelley had emailed IWMAC members the updated regulations of the Solid Waste Ordinance showing the Town Council's final version of IWMAC-suggested changes regarding the entrance permit and bulky waste coupon costs. Doug will ask for wording changes in the Ordinance that would replace all reference to "Solid Waste Management Facility" with the term "Transfer Station and Recycling Center".

4e. Shelley reported that the Town Annual Report that includes the IWMAC write up will be mailed to residents the week of February 12th. Thanks were expressed to Shelley for her work on this.

4f. It was noted that there is still one vacancy on the IWMAC. We are very pleased that two vacancies have recently been filled.

5a. A working committee was established to hammer out a final draft of a letter to Durham businesses about recycling opportunities. Neal, Doug, Chuck and Kim will confer on this and report back at the next meeting.

5b. Improving recycling in the Downtown area should include pairing each trash barrel with a recycling barrel. Dale has seen a good recycling barrel near Snively Arena that Doug said he would examine before ordering any new barrels. Jessie would like to see different configuration and signage of existing barrels.

5c. Mark will meet with Doug to develop a timeline for the Swap Shop addition.

6a. Doug provided a 2006 Solid Waste Data sheet. Jessie asked whether we should revisit the idea of implementing a fee for tires and propane tanks. Doug will examine the feasibility factors and will report back to us for future discussion.

6b. Neal shared a recent article about the first LEED-certified (Green built) *home* in Massachusetts. He also noted that he has decided to run for Town Council.

6c. Shelley reported that Donna Brown will be our contact person at UNH, coordinating undergraduate student research projects and that Mandy Merrill is now working in the Majority Office of the NH House. She also mentioned a meeting she will be attending this week about Women in Construction and LEED.

7. The next meeting will be on March 6th at 7:30 am at Town Hall. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 am.