

# Minutes 4-10-07 7:30 am

## Durham Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee

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

Also present: Resident, Henry Smith and Town Engineer, David Cedarholm

Agenda Topics below correspond to numbered paragraphs that follow:

1. Welcome
2. Public Input
3. Biosolids and Sludge
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Updates **A.** Climate Change Resolution **B.** Oyster River Carbon Challenge **C.** Recent Newsletter
6. UNH Commuter Guide
7. Report from Public Works **A.** Recycling Letter To Businesses **B.** Downtown Recycling Barrels  
**C.** Other
8. Miscellaneous
9. Set Agenda Items for May / Next Meeting Date
10. Adjournment

1. Peter Stanhope was welcomed to his first IWMAC meeting as Town Council representative. Introductions were made.

2. Henry Smith complimented IWMAC's latest newsletter and had one question regarding the use of compact fluorescent lights with canned (recessed) lighting. Shelley offered an aside, showing the NH Saves catalog she received that offers 'bargain basement' prices for compact fluorescent bulbs. The catalogs are available via the PSNH website.

**3.** David Cedarholm reviewed the background information about Durham's ideas for future sludge disposal. (Detailed information from last month's presentation by Resources Management Inc. (RMI), can be found in the IWMAC minutes of 3-7-07.) Durham is entering into a pilot program that involves treating 40 cubic yards of sludge from our wastewater treatment plant with wood ash onsite (on our existing concrete pad). The batch will be tested for pH throughout a 6 to 8 week period of mixing and will be monitored for odors -- although preliminary monitoring has shown no odor problems. If the process goes as expected the resulting fertilizer can be offered to local farmers instead of being hauled to Merrimack as has been the past practice with untreated sludge. We already have three interested farmers to date. If Durham decides to contract with RMI for all of its sludge there could be significant savings in hauling and handling costs. Durham would need to dedicate a front-end loader and dump truck as well as a half-time employee. A canopy and a mixing unit would also be beneficial. The Dover Public Works department is willing to lend its mixing unit to Durham for our pilot effort. David will send a calendar of the process to IWMAC and he will ask committee members to observe and help evaluate steps in the pilot program. It is estimated that adopting this new process would cost \$30 per ton as compared to our current cost of \$78 per ton plus hauling. Durham requires the processing of 2000 tons per year.

Peter asked whether other towns will adopt similar techniques and whether there could be competition that could affect our market. Farmers may be increasingly seeking fertilizer made from biosolids instead of commercial fertilizer. Dave will check with Shelagh Connelly from RMI for more on this. Dale noted that RMI matches specific pH batches according to farmers' needs. Waste Management Inc. will haul sludge to Turnkey Landfill for use in methane production for \$100+/ton, but require odor control by town, which would add to the price. They will also haul sludge to Merrimack for \$400/load. This does not seem to be a good alternative.

**4.** The minutes of the 3-7-07 IWMAC meeting were approved with minor revisions. These minutes will be posted on the Durham website.

**5A.** Shelley shared that the Town Council is planning to announce the formation of an Energy Committee as a response to the Durham Climate Change Resolution that was supported by a vast majority of voters at the March elections. Town Councilors, Diana Carroll, Jerry Needell and Mark Morong are happy to accept input as to the charge of the committee. Shelley has already sent a list of issues to be considered. Other committee members are encouraged to consider suggestions and send them to Diana, Jerry and Mark.

**5B.** Chuck reported that the Oyster River Carbon Challenge is progressing with the establishment of goals and objectives. They had a display at the Durham and Lee polls and handed out introductory information. They plan to have displays at Step It Up Day, April 14<sup>th</sup>, and at the UNH Earth Day and Solarfest events on April 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> respectively. Chuck reminded us that ORHS Science Teacher, Jon Bromley is looking for a member of IWMAC to present to his class on the afternoon of April 20<sup>th</sup>. Members of the ORCC will also be there. Jenna and Jessie will get more info from Jon and will come up with a plan.

**5C.** Committee members expressed appreciation for the latest newsletter. The theme of reducing carbon dioxide emissions was well coordinated among the contributors. Kudos were given to Jessie and Kim for their legwork on this edition. Jessie will try to get the online edition up as soon as possible.

**6.** Jessie handed out a page showing suggested edits for the Town recycling information that appears in the UNH Commuter Guide publication. Brett Mongeon of UNH is happy to receive updates but needs them by the end of April. Jessie asked that IWMAC members review her edits and send any additional suggestions to her via e-mail, so that she may respond to Brett prior to our next IWMAC meeting. It was agreed that occasional reminders of recycling guidelines is good for everyone. Jessie suggested that our Public Works web pages be updated with language similar to what is proposed for the Commuter Guide.

**7A.** Doug plans to send the final draft of the recycling letter to IWMAC members prior to mailing it to businesses. **7B.** Doug also reported that he has approval to purchase paired trash and recycling barrels for Main Street. He will work with Dale on finalizing this. **7C.** Public Works announced on the Administrator's Friday Updates that the Transfer Station would be open to all residents (with or without vehicle permit) for **brush only** from April 9<sup>th</sup> to April 21<sup>st</sup> (excluding Sundays) during regular hours. This is a response to the recent snowstorm that brought down an unusual amount of tree limbs. Peter and Kim both offered a willingness to use their trucks to help residents with brush. Situations like this would provide community service opportunities for students. The Active Retirement Association might know of community needs. Kim may research this. Spring Cleanup starts April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Transfer Station will not require bulky waste coupons from residents during the two-week period of Spring Cleanup. Since graduation is on May 19<sup>th</sup>, arrangements have been made to provide access to the Transfer Station for two Tuesdays and two Saturdays subsequent to graduation without requiring bulky waste coupons from residents. Landlords in particular will be able to dump mattresses and furniture for free under this arrangement, but they do their own hauling.

**8.** Shelley provided a flyer about a speaker (Matthew Simmons) who is coming to UNH. She emphasized the correct date of Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> as it had been printed incorrectly in the newsletter. She will ask for the correct information to be disseminated via the Friday Updates and DCAT. Mr. Simmons will speak on the subject of Peak Oil at Huddleston Hall Ballroom at 7 pm and the public is invited.

**9.** The topic of Biosolids was added to the agenda for May. Chuck will facilitate that meeting, which is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup>. Jessie will facilitate the June meeting while Shelley handles the minutes. Dale will facilitate the July meeting. Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month.

**10.** The meeting adjourned at 9:10 am.