

**IWMAC Meeting Minutes - DRAFT**  
**Town Council Chambers, Durham Town Hall**  
**January 19, 2022 8 am**

In attendance: Nell Neal, Sally Needell, Sam Hewitt, Susan Richman, Julie Kelley, and Naomi Kornhauser

Meeting started with informal discussion of free Terracycle recycle programs that Sally has learned about and that we might consider using. For oral care products, we will switch to the free Crest and Oral B program that Julie learned about as soon as our current box is full.

Minutes for 1/5 meeting were approved. Naomi will send them to Jen Berry along with this draft, and will include Jen in future emails of minutes.

Sally gave report for Town Council and Planning Board.

- Public comment period for Mill Plaza redevelopment is ending February 9, the earliest possible date for the final vote by the PB.
- Nell asked if Rich brought up the issue of recycling at the Mill Plaza development. Sam will check.
- Sally inquired about having an IWMAC table at the town election in March. It is unlikely that this would be allowed because of the large number of people outside the polls representing candidates and issues.

Nell gave a review of the recently completed Regional Compost Working Group Report

- The report includes possible solutions and recommendations for DPW to explore, even though some may not be immediately attainable.
- Nell plans to present the report to the Town Council. Sally suggests the report become part of the Council's goals, to be set in March.
- Working group had representatives from Durham, Lee, ORCSD, and UNH. Neither ORCSD nor UNH can/will partner with Durham and Lee in handling compost.
- Lee and Durham suggest exploring sharing a regional compost center, most likely located in Lee, or hiring a company that can pick up compost at various locations.
- UNH currently composts at Kingman Farm and has food waste from cafeterias picked up by Agricycle. ORCSD has food waste picked up by Mr. Fox.
- Nell explored composting program in Jasper, Alberta, which has secure community compost bins without odor. DPW is concerned about how to avoid contamination in bins.

Sam gave report for DPW, which has been inundated with handling snow and rain weather events and a water main break.

Susan reported on funding possibilities.

- Community Action Works has a webinar about funding.
- New England Grassroots Environment Fund in Newmarket is a possible local source for funding.
- Many groups focus on grassroots work and environmental justice.
- Sources of funding include Patagonia, Lowes, Home Depot, and Rotary
- Any proposal needs to include information about what we have accomplished in the past, what it has cost and where we received funding, and current goals – both “big picture” and itemized expenses.
- Grants in the hundreds are given to student groups, but most grants are \$5000 and up.
- Nell suggested approaching Rotary to fund signage needs. Sally mentioned that they have provided money and labor to add shelving to Swap Shop.

ORCSD Sustainability Committee. Julie said that things are in flux with Maggie Morrison leaving, but students are eager to be involved. We hope to explore cooperation with the group once things have settled down.

Julie asked about parameters for information supplied in DYKs. Sam said DYKs have all been appropriate, and she just needs to avoid discussing exactly where recycle is being sent and how much (in specific dollar amounts) we are earning from it.

Sam says that even though we haven't been able to bale corrugated cardboard ourselves due to staffing shortages, it is still more lucrative to separate it from mixed paper.

We discussed having a DYK explain how to recycle plastic bags and what Hannaford does with them. Sally will research information for Julie to include in future DYKs.

Sam proposed using next meeting on 2/2 to clarify content of Story Map. Ideally the map will include all information relevant to our education initiative, and then we can extract smaller parts to use in other places. For the following meeting, we will work on establishing a timeline.

Susan invited us all to take part in a NH Network zoom meeting about plastics on Feb. 7. She will email information about this as well as about state bills regarding plastics, recycling, and landfills.

Minutes submitted by Naomi Kornhauser