

IWMAC Meeting Minutes
5 Garden Street
September 28, 2022, 8 am

In attendance: Nell Neal, Mary Caulfield, Julie Kelley, Susan Richman, Sally Needell, Al Howland, Carden Welsh, Sam Hewitt, and Naomi Kornhauser.

Minutes for 9/14 meeting were approved.

Waste Management in Durham Restaurants. Susan proposed that we email Durham restaurants/food businesses with invitation to attend Beyond Plastics webinar about benefits and process of switching to reusables. Committee agreed that Susan should send it on behalf of IWMAC. Rachel in Parks and Rec or her assistant Kelly should be able to provide a recent list of business contacts that was put together for Durham Day.

Naomi noted that so-called compostable containers also pose problems; Al said that soon Mr. Fox will not accept some compostable containers because of chemical additives.

Sustainability Capstone Project. Julie reported that Erin Hale, a professor in the UNH Sustainability program, contacted her soliciting ideas for research projects for Sustainability majors. We discussed involving the student in project to evaluate and improve practices in Durham restaurants and possibly develop a process to qualify restaurants as “sustainable.” Committee member or members would have to serve as mentor(s), a time-consuming commitment. Sally, Susan, Julie, and Mary would consider being co-mentors, and will discuss this with Erin. Carden suggested that Alex Fried might be interested in helping with mentorship.

Compost Opportunity. Ray LaRoche has been composting leaves for the town for about 20 years and is interested in expanding his efforts to include food waste. The committee is in favor of exploring this opportunity, which would require checking state regulations and writing up a recommendation to present to Town Council. Al recommended that we contact state reps after the fall election about working to change/improve state regulations.

Timeline Actions

- We need to define our goal. Tentatively, our goal is to increase diversion rate from 30-35% to 45%, including recycling, compost, metal, but not Swap Shop. Carden cautioned that it is very difficult to quantify diversion rate. He and Sam will handle data actions listed for November.
- Susan contacted B&B in Somersworth about cost of producing printed materials. B&B has done good work in the past for the town.
- Sam found out that Steve Pesci at UNH is the person to contact about using signboards at downtown intersections.

- Naomi and Barbara (if she agrees) will work on IWMAc slogan and Sustainable Durham design. They will contact Kennedy McGrath directly. Nell will send Naomi list of committees who may be supplying their own logos. Suggestions were made to look again at Recycle Right graphics on the NRRA website and to look for sustainability graphics on website of other towns such as Hanover, Lebanon, Keene.
- Julie will talk with DPL about posting a banner at library and scheduling an event for Earth Day 2023.
- Nell will ask Doug Clark whether pole will be available to hang banner over Pettee Brook.
- Todd has approved hanging banner at Town Hall.
- Al will ask Mr. Fox to come and talk to our committee.
- Mary suggested a lawn display of trash at kickoff event.
- Sally will email updated timeline.

Because of the Yom Kippur holiday, we agreed that our next meeting will be on October 12, followed by one on October 19.

Minutes submitted by Naomi Kornhauser