

IWMAC Meeting Minutes – Final
Durham Town Hall Council Chambers
February 7, 2024, 8am

In attendance: Carden Welsh, Heather Grant, Julie Kelley, Mike Pazdon, Naomi Kornhauser, Nell Neal, Richard Reine, Sally Needell, Sam Hewitt, Susan Richman, and guest Janet Perkins-Howland.

Minutes approved for 1/17 meeting. Following up on an item in minutes, Sally reported that she spoke with Olivia Welsh, UNH Student Senate External Affairs Chair, about the existence of a UNH “bulletin board.” Olivia said there is a website, “UNH Serves,” where one can post volunteer opportunities. Sam said DPW already uses it.

Town Council Update by Carden.

- Town is in good financial shape, with higher revenues and lower expenses than expected.
- Planning in process for Revolution 1774 celebration to take place on June 15, 2024

Planning Board Update by Heather. Still working on definitions.

DPW Update by Rich.

- Plans are being developed for handling bulky waste now that curbside pick-up program has ended. Committee voted in favor of granting one free coupon per residence for bulky waste drop-off, good throughout the calendar year.
- For pick-up with new automated trucks, it is proposed that each household will receive a 64-gallon container for solid waste and a 96-gallon container for single stream recyclables. Various automated programs in New England have been, and continue to be, evaluated relative to how large families who generate more trash, and the corresponding container number and size are addressed. In some cases, families that meet certain criteria could potentially receive a second SW container. In other instances, residents have been permitted to purchase an additional container and tags which are attached to the container or bags to cover the cost of extra pick-up and disposal. Other municipalities require any excess trash beyond what fits in the container distributed, excluding the large family case above, to be brought to Transfer Station. This is a work in progress requiring further discussion with final decisions pending.
- Modeling has shown that it may be impractical to do all pick-up with an EV truck, especially in cold weather. It is likely that we will purchase one EV truck (using grant money) and one diesel truck.

Composting

- DPW does not have the resources to work on composting now, but the new collection plan neither includes nor precludes composting in the future.
- The UNH Fellow for Global Covenant of Mayors has asked for update on composting. We feel certain we have made progress, especially with education, but unfortunately it is difficult to quantify that progress. Goals are ongoing.

- How can the committee move forward on composting? We discussed possibility of applying for grant to purchase one or more rodent-proof pick-up containers to place at convenient locations in town.

Remaining agenda items were moved to the next meeting, scheduled for February 21 in the upstairs conference room.

Minutes submitted by Naomi Kornhauser