

IWMAC Meeting Minutes – FINAL
Durham Town Hall
March 19, 2025, 8am

In attendance: Sam Hewitt, Julie Kelley, Nell Neal, Sally Needell, Paul Rasmussen, Susan Richman, Peter Yost, and Naomi Kornhauser.

Agenda approved.

Minutes from March 5 approved with one spelling correction.

DPW Update by Sam.

- Purchase of trucks and totes and new containers for Transfer Station is on hold until we know if tariffs are in place on Canadian and Mexican goods.
- Requesting extension of funding for EV vehicle.
- Current compost sign will be moved closer to bins at Transfer Station. We will not order new sign from NRRA.
- DPW is too busy to take on Styrofoam recycling now. Paul will talk to Strafford Regional Planning Commission about the possibility of a multi-town effort.
- DPW cannot currently pick up dry compostable waste at town hall. Peter will arrange to take it to the TS on Saturdays; Sally will be backup.

Town Council Update by Sally.

- Sally is our new TC rep (Yay!). Joe Friedman is the new TC chair.
- Council approved Housing Task Force initiatives to go to Planning Board.
- Susan presented Single Use Plastics Petition and TC voted to sign on. (Another Yay!)

Planning Board Update by Paul.

- PB is looking for new alternate member.
- Continuing discussion of Mill Plaza upgrade, to include landscaping, facelift to back building, and addition of restaurant and dining patio.
- Public hearing for new Dunkin Donuts at next meeting.

Recycling and Composting at Dunkin Donuts.

- Peter's research found that individual franchises control decisions about recycling and composting. Some facilities in Maine do recycling; Julie will try to contact them for more information.
- Paul said zoning regulations re: recycling only apply to residential properties and to commercial properties whose waste is handled by DPW.
- Peter and Julie will send email as public comment to PB, asking new DD to practice recycling and composting and to NOT use Styrofoam.
- In future we will propose adding recycling requirements to site plan regulations for all commercial developments.

Sustainable Practices in Restaurants. We discussed a number of possible approaches to encourage and support sustainable practices in Durham restaurants, including starting a punchcard card/raffle program, visiting restaurants to distribute educational materials, awarding sustainability badges, partnering with UNH Resource Economics. We decided to concentrate on Dunkin Donuts for now and consider these ideas in the future.

Proposed Single Use Plastics Resolution. Nell distributed Karen's version. She and Sally will work on revision to make resolution clearer and stronger.

Pilot Compost Program. Nell spoke with Todd, who has no concern about our choosing which neighborhood(s) will participate. He can act as "administrator" of grant monies, should we receive them.

ORCSD Community Dinner on April 15. Mike and Peter will staff the IWMAC table. Naomi and Susan gave Peter materials to distribute (stickers, etc.) He or Mike can pick up more items from Sally.

Meeting adjourned with intention to meet again on April 2.

Minutes submitted by Naomi