

**IWMAC Meeting Minutes – DRAFT**  
**Durham Town Hall**  
**May 7, 2025, 8am**

**In attendance:** Sam Hewitt, Julie Kelley, Nell Neal, Janet Perkins-Howland, Paul Rasmussen, Susan Richman, Peter Yost, and Naomi Kornhauser.

**Agenda** approved.

**Minutes** from April 16 approved with one minor change.

**DPW Update** by Sam

- DPW is going to council for approval of purchase of new trash container. Once ordered, they should arrive in 3-4 months.
- Containers will be ordered from Toter, who will take and recycle old containers. Plan is to order gray bodies, though black has higher recycle content. Sam will send us information about container colors and their recycle content.
- Waiting for price quote from Waste Management (to outsource solid waste pickup) before making a decision about ordering new vehicles.
- One new staff member has been hired (Spencer) and another is returning from leave.
- EV maintenance is more complicated than for diesel trucks. EV trucks must be towed to Tewksbury MA for repair.

**Planning Board Update** by Paul. Dunkin Donuts decision still on hold pending decision from DOT on traffic pattern.

**Durham 2025-2030 Climate Action Plan.**

- Paul commented that we should not use climate as a justification to reduce solid waste, since SW is such a minor part in the overall picture.
- Naomi questioned the statement that the town and university have done everything they can to combat climate change.
- Janet suggested that the plan should include more specific goals and actionable items.
- Susan questioned the information/data in the plan about composting.
- Susan also suggested that the university increase sustainability education for students and that the town increase public education about issues such as idling, insulation, and reducing lawn cover.
- Nell will ask Todd and the Sustainability Fellow to attend a meeting to discuss the plan with us.

**Brattleboro visit.** Peter reported that Sam has provided a list of questions about their composting program. He and Mike have not yet set date for visit.

**Riverwoods sustainability event.** Julie and Sally ran table and learned that: Mr. Fox handles Riverwoods' compost, food service composts all food waste, and Riverwoods has a swap shop. Susan commented that residents might want to participate in community education.

**Meeting with Susan Spang.** Susan and Julie will arrange meeting.

**Composting pilot.**

- Grants that Mike was pursuing will not be available until next winter or spring.
- Nell suggested that we look into finding money for pilot using our own budget plus some from town. We will devote some of next meeting discussing this and other ways we might encourage composting.
- Susan noted that Black Earth might be interested in doing pilot if Mr. Fox is not.

**Waysmeet Center** needs someone to remove food from plastic for composting. Perhaps a Riverwoods resident would be interested?

**Possible new initiatives**

- Creating new and updated educational posters
- Driving our Styrofoam to Guilford for recycling
- Collecting plastic plant containers

**Election of officers.** Nell elected as Chairperson, Julie as Vice-Chair, and Naomi as Secretary. Julie will help Nell put together meeting agendas.

**Plastic bag petition.** Susan reported that 4,000 signatures have been collected; the goal is 10,000.

We adjourned with plan to meet on May 21.

Minutes by Naomi