

IWMAC Meeting Minutes – DRAFT
Durham Town Hall
May 21, 2025, 8am

In attendance: Julie Kelley, Nell Neal, Mike Pazdon, Janet Perkins-Howland, Paul Rasmussen, Sally Needell, Susan Richman, and Naomi Kornhauser, plus visitor Brenda Corbin.

Agenda approved.

Minutes from May 7 approved with changes previously submitted by email.

Public Comments Brenda Corbin spoke about sustainable practices at the Cornucopia food pantry at the Waysmeet Center, where she works. The pantry generates 3 toter-size containers of compost per week, which is picked up by Mr. Fox. Extra food goes to a pig farmer in Greenland. They have a large amount of plastic waste due in part to clamshell containers. She will contact us in the fall if they need more volunteer help.

DPW Update. Sam was absent. According to literature he provided after last meeting, black bins are made from 100% recycled material, whereas other colors have only up to 50 %, Naomi, Julie, and others expressed desire to order 100% recycled bins. Nell put in call to Sam to ask whether price is the limiting factor in ordering black. Julie has contacted Toter to ask about flexibility in color of container lids.

Planning Board Update by Paul. Dunkin Donuts development is going forward, even though DOT is only allowing right turns in and out. By next meeting, Mike will find out how to contact corporate and franchisee about recycling and composting.

Meeting with Judith Spang. Julie and Susan have meeting scheduled for next week.

Durham 2025-2030 Climate Action Plan.

- Nell and Julie met with Todd and agreed that the Sustainability Fellow should meet with us in the fall.
- Todd suggested we put together a proposal to fund the pilot curbside composting project in the 2026 budget. Proposal would be needed by July. Nell, Susan, Naomi, and Sally will meet to work on proposal.
- Paul suggested using data about reducing solid waste as rationale for composting.
- We agreed to time Town Council compost challenge close to budget approval, either in September or starting on Farm Day in August. Julie and Sally will plan it.

Recycling plastic plant pots. Pots can be taken to Swap Shop. If customers don't claim them, they will be brought to Home Depot or Lowes for recycling. Julie will publicize this again in this week's DYK.

Committee Summit. Julie suggested organizing a yearly or biannual meeting with representatives from each town committee. She will put together a proposal, but no urgent deadline.

NH Plastics Working Group update by Susan

- They now have 4300 signatures on the petition to ban plastic bags.
- They have been invited to make a presentation to the state's Solid Waste Working Group.
- Susan has data that the biggest component of Solid Waste in NH is paper, followed by food, then plastics. She will check on whether this refers to volume or weight

Plastic-Free July. Janet suggested putting link in DYK to Plastic Free July website.

Zero Waste USA. Janet suggested highlighting this program, possibly challenging residents to make Durham the first Zero Waste town in NH. Paul noted that the demolition of the middle school was a Zero Waste project. Janet will gather more information about becoming a Zero Waste Community.

New Toter Challenge? Sally suggested having a competition to see who can take longest to fill their new Toter. Could be timed with roll-out of new containers.

Summer meeting schedule. We will continue to meet every two weeks, with the option of cancelling a meeting if too many people are traveling.

Adjournment with next meeting scheduled for June 4.

Minutes submitted by Naomi