

IWMAC Meeting Minutes – DRAFT
Durham Town Hall Council Chambers
October 1, 2025

Meeting called to order at 8:03.

In attendance: Julie Kelley, Nell Neal, Paul Rasmussen, Mike Pazdon, Peter Yost, Sally Needell, Steven Fellows, Naomi Kornhauser, Allison Jumper, Em Friedrichs, and UNH students Elizabeth and Jordan.

Agenda approved.

Minutes from September 17 approved

Compost Challenge report by Jordan and Elizabeth.

- Nine people have signed up (6 councilors and 2 community members who showed interest). No town hall employees have expressed interest. We would like to have more participants, so we agreed that IWMAC members would take part.
- Steven will explore possibility of getting data from Riverwoods about weight of solid waste vs. compost. This could be communicated separately but alongside results of challenge.

DPW Update. Sam and Rich absent.

- Mike reported that Rich has expressed concern about what follow-up will be expected after pilot. Mike assured him that the pilot is only to collect data and gain understanding of logistics.
- \$5000 that we are requesting for pilot was incorrectly placed in DPW budget. We agreed by unanimous vote that at October 3 meeting with DPW and Administration, Mike and/or Peter will clarify that we do NOT want the money to come out of DPW budget.

Town Council Update by Sally. (Council hasn't met since our last meeting.)

- Because of tightness of budget, it is unlikely that we will get money for pilot.
- Because of fees now collected by state Solid Waste Management Fund, grant money may become available for a pilot in 2027.

Planning Board Update by Paul.

- Riverwoods expansion in "holding pattern"; lot line adjustments considered.
- Housing Task Force is holding public meeting October 7 to share the recommendations they plan to make to PB and TC.

Town Council Presentation regarding IWMAC activities/accomplishments in past year.

- Mike already shared list via email. Naomi will restyle with bullets to make list more readable.
- Request for more alternate members will be made at October 20 TC meeting.

Brush Pickup – addressing concerns expressed in anonymous email.

- Em Friedrichs spoke to suggest a trial period (1-2 years) of not picking up brush. She stated that there are many better ways to direct the money spent on brush collection
- Brush is currently chipped or burned.
- Nell noted that DPW has told us that cost of brush collection is minimal
- We agreed to table this subject until we have someone present from DPW to participate in discussion.
- Peter made a list of questions for DPW, that he will email members after meeting. Those questions are listed at end of minutes.

Sustainability Newsletter.

- Julie will be meeting with Todd later in day to discuss newsletter.
- We discussed two possibilities: a separate quarterly sustainability newsletter; and a new format to Friday Updates with hyperlinks to different topics, e.g. town business, recreation, sustainability.
- UNH student is still available to work on newsletter.

Chair Report by Nell about her recent discussion with Pete Lachapelle of Waste Management.

- Currently, cost of handling recyclables is approximately \$100/ton vs. approx. \$80/ton for solid waste.
- WM prefers to take only no. 1, 2, and 5 plastics.
- WM takes waste water treatment sludge, dries it, and puts it in landfill if PFAS levels are low enough.
- RMI spreads dried sludge on land. It is unclear whether DPW has considered using WM to process sludge and, if not, why not.

PFAS in Waste Water Treatment Plant Sludge.

- Allison fielded questions about her report at the last meeting.
- Sally suggested that we wait until DPW is present to discuss this further.

We adjourned at 9:50, purposing to meet again on October 15. At that time we can consider whether a meeting on October 29 is needed.

Minutes by Naomi

Questions about brush submitted by Peter after meeting:

1. How much of brush pickup is burned?
2. How much is chipped for mulch?
3. How much time, fuel, is spent for brush pickup? (NOTE: Em mentioned that Rich has a spreadsheet with all this info.)
4. How much labor/\$ is spent on land management (not enough attention currently to this issue)?
5. How much labor/\$ spent on trail maintenance (NOTE: issue of not enough or maybe any at all of Town of Durham trails are fully-accessible)?

