

IWMAC Meeting Minutes – DRAFT
Durham Town Hall Council Chambers
February 4, 2026

In attendance: Nell Neal, Julie Kelley, Susan Richman, Peter Yost, Mike Pazdon, Naomi Kornhauser, Steven Fellows, Paul Rasmussen, Allison Jumper, Sam Hewitt, and Janet Perkins.

Meeting called to order at 8:05.

Agenda approved with a few additions.

January 21 minutes approved.

DPW Update by Sam. Town Council approved Casella contract! Some details of plan:

- New plan to start July 1.
- New toters to be provided mid-May. Still to be decided what to do with old containers.
- Casella will put together new pickup routes and schedule.
- DPW will create informational web page, referring to Concord's as a good example.
- Once page is created, DPW will ask IWMAC for help reaching out to residents.
- With Casella handling collection, our Solid Waste Division will only need 2 full-time employees (formerly 4). No layoffs planned.

Town Council/Planning Board Update by Paul

- 5-4 vote to move forward with public hearing about building height change.
- Steven and Allison approved as alternates.
- PB considering changes to use of Cowell Drive lot.

Plastics Webinar. Susan will email information about content and how to register.

Toilet Paper. Nell shared information from her research on more sustainable toilet paper. Options include recycled TP at Trader Joe's, Caboo (made from bamboo) available at some Hannaford's but expensive, Quilted Northern which maintains its own forests, and Who Gives a Crap (also from bamboo) at the refill store.

Town Council Candidate Forum. We discussed what question(s) to submit specific to IWMAC's concerns, and agreed on the following question (subject to editing): "At the national, state, and local level, the way we handle solid waste is neither economically nor environmentally sustainable. How would you like to see Durham change its handling of solid waste?"

DYKs. Should DYKs discuss health concerns related to plastic use? We discussed the challenge of sharing important information while working within IWMAC's mission.

PFAS Subcommittee Report. At their first meeting, members shared their chief concerns and areas of interest, including

- Raising public awareness
- Removing PFAS at source
- Suggesting ways to reduce PFAS in water
- Finding out whether Waste Management can handle sludge and why Dover switched from WM to RMI.

List of Places to Bring Reusable Items. Sally's list currently appears on Swap Shop web page. Janet will revise it to include "best practices" for donating.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57, purposing to meet again on February 18.

Minutes by Naomi.