

**TOWN OF EXETER
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
02May23**

Meeting was called to order by Chetana at 7:25

Members present: Chetana Palmer, Chris Zigmont, Nina Braun, and Jackie Ojala

Staff and Select Board Member Present: Kristen Murphy, Conservation & Sustainability Planner
Dan Chartrand, Select Board Representative

Apologies from Ryan & Adam for being unable to attend.

Solid Waste Sub-committee update

- The subcommittee has been gathering information from other towns on how they reduce their landfill tonnage
- Chris and Chetana met with DPW to Identify/benchmark the current state
 - There are only a couple of players in the waste management space and they are publicly held companies focused on profits
 - Exeter's contract is up for bid in 2 years
 - Dan suggests SAC be involved in informing the new contract
 - No collaboration between surrounding towns currently
 - The town pays \$1.2 million per year for waste removal, which is due to increase by contract next year
 - DPW is finding it difficult to recoup costs
 - Cardboard/corrugated paper is not getting recycled because it's getting wet, the town would recoup the cost if it was recycled
 - Dan suggests SAC propose that the town builds a shelter to keep materials dry so they can be recycled
- Next steps: Set goals and provide recommendations to meet the goals

Motion by Chris, 2nd by Jackie to **approve meeting minutes from 04Apr23** as presented. Motion passes, unanimously.

Single-use plastic document for Exeter - implementation/next steps

- Kristen drafted a memo outlining how the ordinance could be implemented including awareness, process, and oversight.

- Chris suggests adding to the process section of the memo that the one-page information sheet will be added to and distributed with the relevant permits
- Dan mentioned ensuring that we include the Independence Museum in our outreach
- There is a need to continue to work with Meals on Wheels and provide resources and alternatives – Nina will get back in touch to get information about what plastic products they currently use and what their cost per item is
- Motion by Chetana, 2nd by Nina, to **endorse sending the drafted memo to the town manager and select board and requesting a slot on an upcoming select board meeting** to discuss. Motion passes, unanimously

Helpsy clothes collection at local school - update

- Green Team at Lincoln St school engaged with Helpsy for an Earth Week project to collect textiles. Students prepared posters and take-home materials and the collection went very well and was a success.

Alewife Festival

- 10a-1p on Sat May 13th at Founder's Park
- Kristen to reach out to folks who had a table outside the townhall on Earth Day
- SAC table topics:
 - Talk about the implementation of the single-use plastics ordinance and explain about plastics 1, 2, and 5
 - Chris to reach out to DPW about getting the recycle right display.
 - Kristen to also provide the junk mail poster
- Each table at the festival will have a stamp and participants will have a passport to collect stamps to enter to win a rain barrel

Environmental Film screening - Climgration GenZ Mental Health: Climate Stories - update

- Chetana reached out to PEA, they were interested but still working on collecting potential dates

Grant update – water bottle refill station

- Kristen still researching viable grant options
- Kristen suggests we consider working a water bottle refill station through the town budget process
 - For the next meeting- what budget items do we want to propose?
 - Dan suggests we get a proposed budget item for water bottle refill station and building a structure to cover cardboard for recycling

- Sub-committee to get survey questions together about the use of water bottle refill stations for QR code that will be affixed to current stations in town
 - Chris and Jackie volunteered to work with Kristen
- Potential to work with sponsors for funding drinking water station as well

May 27th or June 3rd – students interested in having a trail care day if we have a preference/would like to assist

With no additional business, Chris motioned, and Nina seconded to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 8:15

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Ojala