

TOWN OF EXETER
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
3 Dec 25

Meeting was called to order by Denise at 7:01pm

Members Present: Denise Short, Chetana Parmar, Julie Gaunt, Jim Breeling, Nina Braun, Sarah Koff (alternate)

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

Public Comments

- No comments from the public

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- Julie motioned to approve the minutes from the 10 Oct 2025 meeting as written, Nina seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Sustainability Partner Program (Kristen, Sarah, Julie)

- The subcommittee (Kristen, Sarah, Julie) presented the details of the proposed Sustainability Partner Program with details supplied in the meeting packet. The goal of this initiative is to encourage sustainable practices and decisions with local businesses by providing a list of options covering a variety of categories. Based on a point system, businesses can be awarded for their participation with a window decal and social media outreach. Multiple tiers are available to encourage businesses to grow their sustainability practices.
- The program is built on the honor system. Businesses can either fill out an online form to indicate their participation and tier met in the program, or select to have someone from the subcommittee meet with them and review their criteria in person. The subcommittee will be responsible for deciding on the frequency of future check-ins, as well as maintaining the criteria list and evolving it as needed. It is understood without this on-going management and oversight, the program may fail in the long term.
- Julie motioned to approve the program as described by the materials presented to the SAC in the agenda packet and move forward with implementation of the Sustainability Partner Program. Jim seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Jim motioned to approve spending not to exceed \$250.00 for the initial purchase of the window decals. Chetana proposed an amendment to the motion that the stickers should be plastic-free. Jim accepted the amendment and changed the motion to approve spending not to exceed \$250.00 for the initial purchase of the window decals and to make them as sustainable as possible. Denise seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Composting Campaign (Kristen, Sarah, Julie)

- The subcommittee (Kristen, Sarah, Julie) decided to create a food waste survey to collect insights from the community to determine how best to support them with a composting initiative. In addition, the subcommittee contacted participants from prior composting programs

to see if those program structures and rewards were well suited. Some good feedback was received.

- Jim motioned to develop a survey matching the draft survey presented to the SAC in the agenda packet and to send it out to the Exeter community and collect the data. Denise seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

October 25th Styrofoam Collection Report & Densifier Update

- The densifier has been installed! Power is being activated. It has been placed on the Kingston Rd side of the transfer station, due to lack of power-hookup on the Cross Rd side. Collection bins will remain on the Cross Rd side for easy community drop-off. Placing the densifier where it is will be a better choice in the long run as it will more easily facilitate regional use of the densifier.
- Dan wanted to thank Steve Cronin for all of his work helping Kristen get this project finished.
- Denise motioned that whatever funds remained in the SAC budget would be spent on densifier super sacks, Chetana seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Solid Waste Planning

- Several members of the SAC and a few other town employees will be attending a tour of the Waste Management facility.
- The cost for recycling at curb-side pickup per ton is double the cost for regular waste per ton.
- Jim motioned to approve spending not to exceed \$250.00 for more waste diversion magnets. Denise seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

New Member Outreach

- The SAC has one alternate position open. Sarah, thanks to her interviews with businesses for the Sustainability Partner Program, knows of two people who would like to join the committee, and one who would be interested in joining in the middle of 2026. Sarah has sent these individuals applications.

Other Business

- Julie asked the committee about the possibility of moving the meetings to another night of the week in 2026. Meeting rooms and ExeterTV need to be taken into consideration along with other members' schedules. Kristen will send a doodle poll with possible dates for the committee to consider, and the topic should be raised at the next meeting.
- The purchase of a street sweeper is up for consideration as a warrant article at the next town vote. Street sweeping is a cost effective way to reduce nitrogen run-off into our rivers and soil, and is something that would be of interest for the SAC to follow.

With no additional business, Denise motioned and Julie seconded to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 8:36pm.

Submitted by,
Julie Gaunt