

**TOWN OF EXETER
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
7 Jan 26**

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

Members present: Denise Short, Julie Gaunt, Jim Breeling, Chris Zigmont, Ryan Jean, Sarah Koff (alternate), and Caryl Olmstead (alternate)

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

Introduction of New Member, Caryl Olmstead

The SAC welcomes new member Caryl Olmstead to the committee.

Public Comments

- No comments from the public

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- Julie motioned to approve the minutes from the 3 Dec 2025 meeting as written, Jim seconded. Chris abstained as having not attended the meeting or read the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Interest in Expansion of Alternate Positions

- There are a few members of the public who are interested in joining the committee, which is currently at capacity with 7 members and 2 alternates.
- The committee needs to investigate the rules for increasing the number of members/alternates. Dan and Chris remember the committee was founded on a warrant article that was approved by the public, which may mean increasing the board member count may have to follow a similar process.
- In the interim, there is no limit to the number of subcommittees that can be created under the SAC, so those interested in joining the SAC could be formed into a subcommittee.
- Members of the public are always welcome to attend the SAC meetings in person.

Possible addition of student member to SAC

- A student from Phillips Exeter Academy came forward and asked if there were any student positions available on the SAC. Similar to the above discussion, the committee needs to investigate how it can add new members once capacity has been reached.
- In the interim, this student could join a subcommittee. They are also welcome to attend the SAC meetings in person.

- Denise volunteered to discuss the student's interests and gauge their interest in joining a subcommittee.

Composting Survey Results

- There have been 35 respondents so far. Most of the respondents are residents. About half of the respondents compost in some way. Some of the reasons for those who don't compost are because the transfer station is inconveniently located for them, or not open at a convenient time, or they weren't aware composting was available at the transfer station.
- Sarah volunteered to form a subcommittee to analyze the survey results and submit feasible next steps to the SAC for consideration. Dan and Jim agreed to join the subcommittee.
- Chris recommended that the survey be pushed some more in order to gain more feedback.

Sustainable Partner Program and Earth to Exeter TV

- Stickers were purchased.
- The subcommittee is still waiting to hear back from the Chamber of Commerce about setting up a digital web presence and partnership for the program on the town website.

Review of Subcommittees including roles and charges

- There are a few subcommittees under the SAC:
 - Sustainable Partner Program (Sarah, Kristen, Julie) – to develop and roll out a program that would incentivize local businesses to operate in a more sustainable fashion
 - Composting (Sarah, Kristen, Julie) – to investigate and improve Exeter residents and local businesses to compost
 - Solid Waste (Chris, Chetana) – to advise the town on the expiration of the town's contract with Waste Management (2027)
 - Police & Fire Station (Denise, Ryan) – to advise on the building of the new facility be net zero.
 - Kristen attends the weekly meetings. Site work has begun.
- Caryl asked to join the Solid Waste Subcommittee

Styrofoam Collection Process and Planning

- Still waiting on Unitil to hook up the machine to power. There is no timeline for this task.

Solid Waste Facility Tour Report

- Aluminum and cardboard have commodity value.
- Kristen will reach out to Waste Management to see about scheduling a tour of the recycling facility in MA.
- Recycled material is collected at the Waste Management facility and then shipped down to the MA facility.

Meeting times and dates

- Based on a poll of SAC members, the meeting times and dates for the SAC meetings will remain the same, on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

Other Business

- Denise will attend the Deliberative Session to speak in favor of pushing forward a town vote to purchase of a new street sweeper. Street sweeping is a cost effective way to reduce nitrogen run-off into our rivers and soil. The town invested to upgrade its waste water treatment plant, but are still not in compliance with what the State and EPA originally mandated. Purchasing and using a street sweeper will help the town become compliant and is more cost efficient than investing further in improvements to the plant.

With no additional business, Jim motioned and Chris seconded to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 8:32pm.

Submitted by,
Julie Gaunt