

Town of Exeter
Sustainability Advisory Committee
Meeting minutes
5 February 2026

The meeting was called to order by Denise at 7:00 pm

Members Present: Denise Short, Caryl Olmstead, Sarah Koff, Jim Breeling, Chris Zigmond

Staff and Select Board Member Present: Kristen Murphy, Dan Chartrand

Public comments: No comments from the public

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Chris motioned to approve the minutes of the 7 Jan 2026 meeting as written, Jim B seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Styrofoam collection process and planning

Two members had checked in on the progress at the transfer station. The general announcement about the opening of the special bin for styrofoam collection was “too successful”, and available space in the bin filled up too quickly. The amount was more than 5 large storage bags. The need for another town styrofoam collection day (where help could be arranged and the drop-off process observed) was considered. The committee reviewed possible dates and selected a possible date of March 7th, at the Kingston Road entrance barn from 9AM to 11AM. A rental truck would have to be arranged and social media and publicity created. Dan thanked Chris and Denise for helping at the transfer station. Education on accepted type of foam was still necessary – for example, better signage of accepted items with examples.

Denise asked about the requirement for a dump permit tag, noting that no tag is required for fall leaf collection. Dan will ask to review if DPW and Finance changes in regulations especially since the tags generate some revenue. Chris asked if it could be bundled with sticker for car – getting a transfer station tag at the same time as registration. The committee agreed on the goal of trying to get more people to use the transfer station instead of curbside collection.

Composting subcommittee

Dan, Jim, and Sarah met to gather ideas. Examples include providing the town with single web page on composting as a resource, promoting the survey and learning more about composting. A survey goal of 200 responses was endorsed. Currently about 80 responses have been collected. Chris talked about winning a compost bin as part of the campaign to increase awareness of the program. There was a sidebar discussion on recycling pizza boxes. Soiled pizza boxes taken by Mr. Fox- only the Brown boxes (not white boxes). This causes confusion for users.

Sustainable partner program update

Dan has talked to Jen at the Chamber of Commerce about involving them in sustainability programs. They would be happy to take and add in their e-newsletter, press release, hold a member-to-member expert form discussion (target late spring). In working with Exeter business – suggest working with Town of Exeter Economic Dev office. Will need more promotion after all the advertising in place.

Legislative updates

Julie was working on summarizing NH energy/sustainability legislation. Julie Gilman may be a resource for insights into current legislation. Most public comment sessions are quick action on the state website. Clean Energy NH does legislative tracking. Denise suggested to discuss at next meeting when Julie is present. Chris says a minor victory last week. The \$50 per bicycle tax was withdrawn. Chris suggests that the public outcry because of strong network of bike advocates.

Denise asked if other towns have sustainability committees. Caryl took this as a to-do item – looking at other towns and best practices.

Other business

- Epping transfer station modification- will need to go to Epping planning board. May have regional impact. Confusion with notification of property adjacent to the area.
- Deliberative session. Street sweeper framed up well at session.
- Student participation in SAC – Denise met with a student on Monday. They were very interested in getting involved. Major interest in analyzing data. Kristen says we do get a fair amount of data from Waste Management. Denise will invite the student to committee next time.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Chris and seconded by Caryl. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55.

Will meet one more time before town election.

Submitted by,

Jim Breeling