

**TOWN OF EXETER  
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
1 Apr 26**

Meeting was called to order by Denise at 7:02pm

**Members present:** Denise Short, Julie Gaunt, Chris Zigmont, Sarah Koff (alternate), and Caryl Olmstead (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**

- Chris motioned to approve the minutes from the 4 Feb 2026 meeting as written, Caryl seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Waste Reduction Subcommittees Updates**

- Composting Subcommittee
  - There are about 120 responses to the town composting survey. The committee has a goal to reach 200 respondents.
  - The subcommittee has had a few meetings over the last few months. They decided to take a two pronged approach.
    - Assess the town's awareness and usage of composting based on survey. Based on the data collected from the survey, create education and outreach materials as needed.
    - The State will be announcing a food waste grant. There are no details about the grant yet. This grant could present an opportunity for the SAC to pilot a curbside composting program.
- Solid Waste Subcommittee
  - No updates

**Education/Outreach**

- Sustainable Partner Program Updates
  - The program is now live and has successfully processed its first business partner, who has received Gold Status.
- Alewife Festival, Earth Month Event Ideas
  - The festival will be held outside (weather permitting) at Founder's Park on May 9 from 10am-1pm. Backup location will be in the Town Hall.

- The committee discussed having information about composting education/food waste statistics, and the Sustainable Partner Program. The festival could serve as a good opportunity to bring the survey responses up to 200.
- Review Website
  - Denise volunteered to help Kristen review and update the content on the SAC website.
- Legislative Updates
  - Representative/Select Board Representative Julie Gilman provides the Energy Committee updates on energy-related legislation that goes through the Statehouse. Julie Gaunt will review the meeting recordings of the Energy Committee to learn what bills Representative Gilman is following.
  - Denise motioned that the SAC should authorize Julie Gaunt to submit testimony on behalf of the SAC on bills related to the committee's charge. Caryl seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- City/Town Sustainability & Solid Waste Committees: Review and Best Practices
  - Caryl reviewed several town websites to see what other towns are doing and what volunteer opportunities are available to newcomers.
  - Portsmouth, Durham, and Dover were particularly interesting. Portsmouth has two high school students on their Sustainability Committee. Durham has an integrated waste management committee that meets every two weeks; they get presentations from companies and have lots of partnerships with UNH. Dover also uses Waste Management, and has a "bag and tag" program. Of the three, having a representative from PEA or EHS may benefit the SAC.
- Dhruv Baghayath update
  - Denise met with him. He indicated interest in joining the Solid Waste Subcommittee. Chris will work with Kristen to reach out to Dhruv to invite him to attend the next SAC meeting, and connect him to the Solid Waste Subcommittee.

## **Correspondence**

- Inquiry about rodenticide use town policy from Amanda Kelly
  - Amanda expressed concern about the town's use of rodenticide and requested more information.
  - Denise reached out to Madison Bailey, Town Health Officer, who provided policies related to rodenticide usage in the town. Denise will analyze the information to determine next steps.
- Permit Application for Proposed Solid Waste Transfer Station in Epping
  - The Epping Solid Waste Transfer Station is seeking an expansion of its capacity, but it may impact the Lamprey River. The Exeter Select Board submitted a letter voicing its concerns on a "regional impact" basis.
  - There is a virtual planning session scheduled for groups organizing around this proposal on April 15 at 12:30, organized by Melissa Paly, Great Bay-Piscataqua Waterkeeper. This session is open to the public and Kristen will share the meeting invite with the SAC.

- Info session and a public hearing on the project are scheduled for April 28 at 5:30pm.

### **Officer Elections**

- Denise is stepping down as chair. Caryl is interested in becoming chair, and Jim Breeling is interested in becoming vice chair.
- Julie would like to step down as clerk and become an alternate.
- Denise will sort out officer assignments before the May meeting and submit the changes to the Select Board.
- The SAC thanks Denise for her leadership as chair and welcomes Caryl to her new role!

### **Other Business**

- The styrafoam densifier is still waiting on power hookup.

With no additional business, Denise motioned and Chris seconded to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 8:20pm.

Submitted by,  
Julie Gaunt