Town of Exeter
Sustainability Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2026

Meeting was called to order by Denise Short at 7:00PM

Members Present: Denise Short (Chair), Caryl Olmstead, Nina Braun, Sarah Koff, Jim Breeling

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

Public Comments: no comments from the public

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Denise moved to approve the minutes of 4/1/2026, Sarah seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously

New Officers for SAC: Denise presented the new slate of Officers for SAC. She moved to appoint Caryl Olmstead as chair, Chetna Parmar as Vice-Chair, and Sarah Koff/Jim Breeling as Recording Secretary/alternate Recording Secretary. Nina Braun seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously

Education/Outreach agenda items: The committee discussed the role that might be fulfilled by Dhruv Baghayath (PEA student representative) which included reviewing data on solid waste for potential metrics/benchmarks and surveying surrounding towns for information on solid waste handling in our area. Sarah presented progress to date on the Sustainable Partner Program. Three Exeter businesses have achieved gold level certification, and another business has recently applied. Publicity for the program has been distributed via Exeter TV and social media channels. Kristen reviewed SAC participation at the upcoming Alewife festival and announced that the festival has been moved indoors to the Town Hall because of weather conditions on Saturday. The SAC table will be set up by Denise and others and run from 10AM to 1PM by Sarah and others. Jim volunteered to bring Swedish Fish and Goldfish as table treats. Singers from the Portsmouth Maritime Festival will also attend. Their typical fee for performance is $300. With a donation of $100 by Dan, Denise motioned and Nina seconded to use $200 from the SAC funds to pay the remainder of the performance fee. There were no discussion and the motion passed unanimously. Kristen discussed the legislative updates including the status of the Epping transfer station issue. The Exeter Select Board has sent two letters to the state as feedback.

Waste Reduction agenda items: The committee discussed the value of changing the way Transfer Station stickers could be handled by the Town. One option is to give each car registered in Exeter a Transfer Station sticker in addition to the car registration sticker. This would a) possibly increase the traffic flow – reducing the demand for curbside pickup, b) decrease the possible use of the Transfer Station by non-Exeter residents, and c) simplify the job for Transfer Station staff to monitor and enforce Town rules. Jim Breeling will gather data on numbers of cars, number of stickers, sticker revenue and other data elements that might help formulate a recommendation. Sarah announced that the composting survey had achieved ~150 responses toward the SAC goal of getting 200 responses. Additional surveys may be completed during the upcoming Alewife Festival at the SAC table. The committee discussed the need to formulate smaller, clearly defined projects in the sustainability domain of solid waste reduction.

Correspondence and additional business: no correspondence or additional business was presented.

Jim motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Denise. With no further discussion, the motion to adjourn passed unanimously. Adjourned at 8:10PM

Submitted by

Jim Breeling