

**TOWN OF EXETER  
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 3, 2026**

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

**Members present:** Denise Short, Julie Gaunt (alternate), Jim Breeling, Sarah Koff, Caryl Olmstead, Sarah Dewitt, and Dhruv Bhaghayath (student member)

**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**

- Denise motioned to approve the minutes from the 6 May 2026 meeting as written, Jim seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Welcome new members:** Dhruv Bhaghayath and Sarah Dewitt

**Dhruv Bhaghayath introduction & project overview**

**Sustainable Certification Program update:**

- We have 4 participating businesses so far and now we need to spread the word. Sarah K asked all members to commit to approaching 2-3 businesses in town and telling them about the certification program. Kristen will send out a google sheet so we can organize and make sure nobody overlaps. Deadline for this is the July meeting.

**Success of Alewife Festival:**

- Denise had a few conversations of interest. One: can we have hazardous waste collection more than once/year? Kristen mentioned Rockingham Planning Commission gets grant every year to hold them; they're expensive. Discussed the Hazardous Waste collection feasibility study done by RPC.

**Legislative Update (Julie)**

- data center zoning bill put on hold, separate bills have come up to address landfill (and made landfill site committee). Have been several energy-specific bills; some passed, some didn't.

**Waste Reduction:**

1. Transfer Station Sticker – data review (Jim Breeling)
  - a. Looked at revenue from transfer station permit fees (in 2025 it was 37K). He'd like to look at more data (number of cars registered, blue bags dispersed) in order to assess if it makes sense to give stickers out with car registrations. Jim is willing to

continue pursuing this and will share his findings with the committee. Denise suggested we require a sticker for everything at transfer station; it was then discussed that people would stop composting so much if they had to pay.

## 2. Styrofoam Recycling Update

- a. Kristen recently went through training to use the recycling machine and they processed all of the Styrofoam collected since January in 2.5 hrs, down to 8 small bricks.
- b. Kristen applied for a grant to purchase lots of supersacks and a storage container for overflow, and received it (grantor even gave up match and gave us 8K outright). Kristen is considering buying a second storage container.

## 3. Composting Subcommittee Update: Survey, Food Waste Grant

- a. Compost subcommittee processed survey and gave broad strokes to SAC. Next steps: develop some educational materials (both videos and for web), look for that food waste grant to apply to, participate in new agro-event at Raynes Barn (in fall?), and Jim will analyze this data further
- b. Kristen: food waste grant hasn't been announced yet.

## 4. Solid Waste Subcommittee Update

- a. No update. Caryl asked if anyone wanted to step in to this subcommittee and nobody volunteered. She then motioned to sideline this subcommittee and move it to a project. Denise seconded. Motion passed.
- b. Dhruv's project will be to do some fact-finding about what other towns in the region are doing for their waste contract/diversion, and he will then analyze the data he finds. Jim offered to help later, in the analysis part. Caryl will send project out to the committee. Dhruv has already begun the work and agreed to check in weekly with Caryl and Kristen.

## 5. SAC Website Update

- a. Denise and Nina are going to work on this together; they hope to have something to share by next meeting.

## 6. 2026 SAC Focus Areas (Top 3)

- a. Solid waste project
- b. Compost
- c. Sustainable Certification program

## 7. Other Business

- a. Sarah Dewitt brought up Halloween Costume Swap held by town's elementary schools. She is looking for a person/org to help store costumes and organize the

swap, as the person doing it is no longer able to. Denise suggested to look at the same people who put together Reprom.

- b. Sarah Dewitt asked if we use Rodenticide on town buildings. Kristen said the treatment plans do tend to include rodenticide, although in the past she tried to find an alternative. Dan offered to talk to DPW and will check back in.

8. Correspondence: none

With no additional business, Caryl motioned and Julie seconded to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 8:25pm.

Submitted by,

Sarah Koff

Next Meeting: July 1st , 2026