

**TOWN OF EXETER
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 2, 2021**

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chetana Parmar.

Chetana Parmar read emergency order

Members Present: Chetana Parmar, Kristen Osterwood, Beverly Tappan, Jackie Ojala, Nina Brauna, Adam Dumville, Christopher Zigmont, and Niko Papakonstantis (Select Board Representative) and Dave Sharples (Town Representative). Also present: Julie LeBranch.

All board members introduced themselves

Introduction of Adam Dumville as a new member of the committee.

Approval of meeting minutes from February 5, 2020: Motion to approve by Bev, 2nd by Nina

Update on Battery Recycling: Dave and Kristen will touch base before the next meeting.

Trash blue bag update:

- Ongoing. Chris asked who makes the choice on bag selection. Jen from DPW will be coming on to discuss.
- Jennifer Perry presentation on recycling and blue bags:
 - Recycling often and recycle right. People are doing things called “wish” recycling, trying to recycling things that are not recyclable (things that are NOT recyclable: plastic hoses, electronics, textiles, bedding, holiday lights, metal hangers, plastic film, paper napkins, paper cups, paper tissues, styrofoam, polystyrene, tires, concrete, sheetrock, shredded paper, pizza box with residue on it, boxes with heavy wax coating such as freezer boxes, films of pasta boxes)
 - “When in doubt - throw it out” not benefiting the whole system if you try to recycle things that are not recyclable
 - Three rules of recycling: 1 bottles (plastics 1,2 and 5), cans and paper; 2 keeping things clean and dry; 3 no plastic bags (bags are devastating to the mechanical equipment at the recycling plant)
 - Plastic bags can be recycled at point of purchase - this is the place to recycle your plastic bags: do not put plastic bags for curbside recycling (these are the biggest contaminant in the town recycling stream)

- Plastic that is recyclable in curbside pick up are bottles, jugs, and clam-shells, not free-form plastics
- Demolition waste should go in ORANGE bags
- Chris suggested a sticker for the recycling bins that have all the rules of recycling
- **Composting:**
 - Working with Mr. Fox to put two 64 gallons totes at the transfer station for community to put food wastes into. It would be \$120 per month for the town. If we need more bins in the future the better - the more food waste diverted from that landfill saves the town money.
 - The SAC full supports this composting proposal
- Solid waste tonnage is up 10% and recycling is up 2% this year due to Covid
- Exeter only had to pay one fine for 2020 for recycling contamination - \$500 (but not necessarily due to stellar recycling sorting skills)
- Will discuss the blue bag trash at another time.
- **Dave updates:**
 - Solar update: warrant article passed unanimously at the Select Board to own the solar array outright- will be on the ballot on March
 - Town manager got a letter for an option to outright buy the DPW solar array - reviewing now with ReVision energy
- **Communications update:**
 - Getting information on warrant articles distributed
 - Ask the team to send any post worthy information out: will plan on getting some recycling information from today out and maybe information about laundry soap from Bev and choosing renewable energy suppliers.

8:13 meeting adjourned, motion by Chetana.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Osterwood

Solar Array on Exeter Landfill

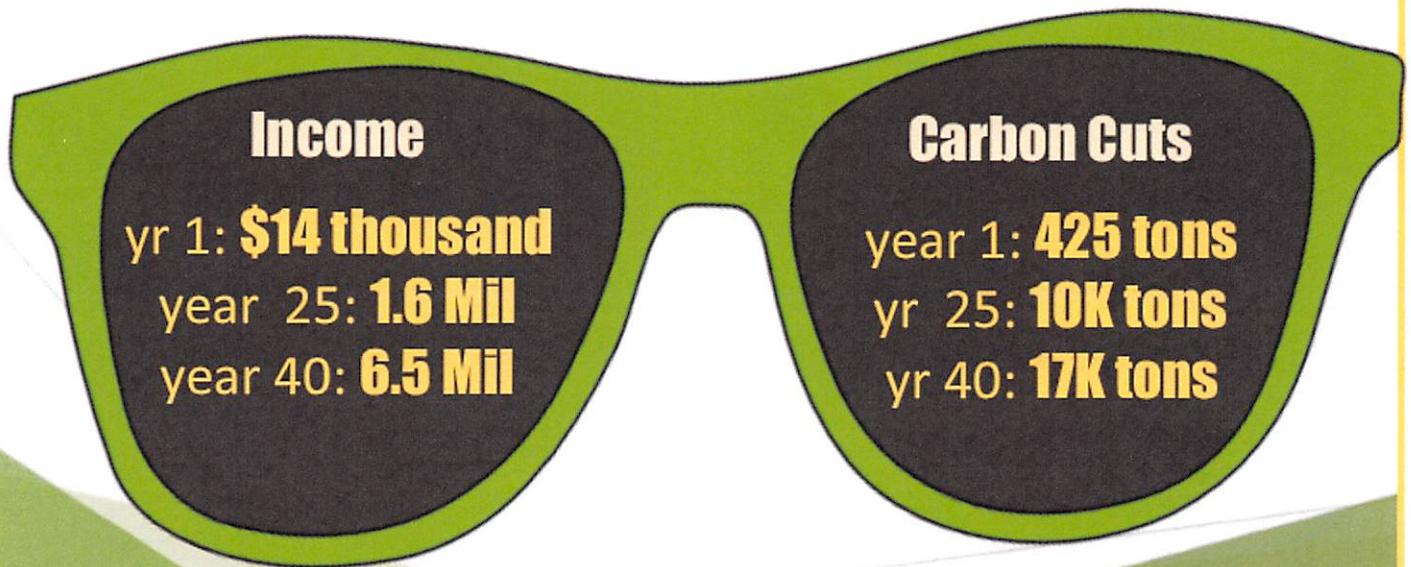
Generates revenue for the town! **WIN!**

Reduces carbon footprint! **WIN!**

Exeter Energy Committee endorses this project
Exeter Sustainability Advisory Committee endorses too!

Exeter Select Board approves 5 to 0

No negative tax impact



See full proposal of 1.75MW, \$3.62 M project at
www.exeternh.gov/planning/current-upcoming-projects

**Vote YES
in March
2021**

Town of Exeter
Energy Cmte



Composting at Transfer Station
Sustainability Advisory Committee Support

To the SelectBoard,

On Tuesday 02 February 2021 at our monthly Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting, we had Jennifer Perry, DPW to present and talk about Recycling in Exeter. With the need to reduce the amount of landfill waste, the team has been looking at options. Making composting available to Exeter residents would certainly assist in this.

According to the EPA, 30% of waste that is landfilled can be composted. By removing organics from the landfill also reduces the greenhouse gases as well as the waste tonnage fees. Making composting available will allow Exeter residents to reduce the amount of solid waste that is landfilled and thus allow extending the life of the blue bags before being landfilled. So, residents would not be using as many blue bags as they may be doing currently.

Offering a single place for compostable materials to be discarded will allow the Transfer station to monitor the uptake of the service as well as ensure residents are aware of what types of waste can be placed in the compost bins. Avoiding contamination is key to the success of the program.

Our neighboring towns: Newmarket, Dover, Durham are all offering composting through Mr.Fox. And they all report great success. Newmarket said that the program has been hugely successful and they said that they have on average composted about 38 tons per year. They are adding a 3rd composting bin as the number of residents using the service is increasing.

After a period of time, it would be beneficial to consider another location of a compost bin to allow easy access to residents in different part of the Town.

It is a win-win situation for the town of Exeter and a step to sustainability. It allows individuals to play their part in reducing our waste that end-up in landfill. Please support composting and this program.

The SAC fully supports DPW and will work with them to ensure the program and service offered is used appropriately and is a success.

22 February 2021