



**Lee Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes – November 14, 2023; 7 PM**
1st floor Meeting Room, Lee Public Safety Complex
George Bennett Road, Lee, NH

Members Present: Dean Rubine (Chair), Chuck Cox, Erik Johnson, Deb Sugerman

Members Absent: N/A

Officials Present: N/A

Officials Absent: Katrin Kasper, Selectperson

Public Present:

I. Call to Order: 7:03 pm

A. Introductions/Guests

Deb, welcome as an official member. That's great news.

B. Erik is joining by speakerphone; all votes are roll call votes.

II. Public Comments

III. Preliminary Actions

A. Approval of Agenda

Agenda unchanged

B. Approval of Minutes – 9/11/23

Deb moved, Chuck 2nd, roll call vote 4-0 approved as amended per Chuck's suggestions.

C. Correspondence

- Articles from Erik.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2023/10/14/raking-leaves-yard-fall-environment/>
<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2023/10/american-families-have-massive-food-waste-problem/675744/>
- Article from Deb / Dover Dems
- Article from Ruth Sample

The committee discussed the articles sent in by members. ACTION. Dean will share a link to an article from Ruth Sample to discuss next month. Action items associated with other articles below.

IV. Old Business

A. Composting survey

Dean: We didn't kick off the composting survey because the fair got canceled. Here's Deb's original draft, and the draft approved by Chuck and me for the fair, which added recycling questions. What should we do with the survey?

Deb: With the cost discrepancy, the transfer station director didn't seem eager to increase participation.

Dean: We went from break-even at the start of the compost program, circa 2019: \$83/ton tippage and hauling for the landfill equaled \$14/(66 gallon bin) for Mr. Fox. Now with a new town truck and a new Mr. Fox price, landfill is ~\$80/ton, Mr. Fox \$18/bin, so about 30% more to compost at the transfer station. At around 22 tons of food waste a year to Mr Fox (estimated 5% of total produced in Lee), that's $22 \times 80 \times .3 = \528 , not a huge cost to the town, but that won't make them eager to increase it. I think sustainability should be sustainable to the wallet, or it will eventually suffer the budget ax.

Erik: If we have a home compost drive we could make a list of things that don't compost well naturally so ought to be composted at the transfer station.

Deb - We were going to draw people into the booth, give them a survey, say you could win this, and then show different composting methods. We can't do that. Let's forget about the survey and start thinking about a composting initiative to get people excited about composting on their own. A workshop on composting? People won't come.

Chuck: What we have going is Backyard Farming, focused on water. In the summer we could do a series on composting, visit different people.

Deb: We could do one BFI on composting.

Chuck: Haley posted photographs from BFI. BFI could integrate composting into the program.

Erik: I agree with Deb about skipping the survey. I'm not convinced it will get us useful information.

Dean: One idea is to go to transferer station and collect the data

Chuck: It could be a student project. ORHS or ORMS sustainability club.

ACTION: Dean will ask Mr. Bromley

Deb - recommends we just stay with composting on the survey.

Dean: There's more money to be saved/made in recycling than composting

Chuck: Either way we're running out of landfill space

Deb; The important information to collect is: if you don't, why not? That tells us what to do next.

Chuck: Have the students ask.

Deb: I've gotten Active Tips, Green Tips number 42 from the Dover Dems. anyone who wants to use them. feel free.

facebook page

ACTION: Deb may post tips on NeighborLee, Lee NH Sustainability facebook page

B. Transfer Station Initiatives

Compost program suggestions: Skip sign up, bags at the bins and swap shop. Consider wording in E-Crier.

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Eric: bag next to bins is important; good idea.

Deb: talked to Martin Thorton about putting the bags with the swap shop

Chuck: volunteers could promote it

Chuck: I go more often than I like and I haul more in than I like. It's just too much to see all we're discarding.

ACTION: Dean will prepare a note to Steve, share with the committee for comments.

C. Chuck – Backyard Farming Initiative 2023

Winter program: 3rd Wed of Jan, Feb, Mar & Apr 7pm at the Library Annex / Old Town Hall. Theme is water. Too much / too little / just right. Pure water

versus polluted. Climate change, drastic extremes. Bacteria, salts, organic matter, pesticides, forever chemicals, pharmaceuticals, acid rain, road salt, irrigation (source/quality/energy), soil drainage, soil health. Dowsing. Water cycle, nutrient cycle, withdrawal of water. Possible presenters: Jim Griswald, hydrologist engineer, David Cederholm, worked with Durham waste treatment plant, collecting urine as fertilizer, John Shay of Shay Septic, Tom Lee, water testing. Seacoast Water Testing, Brian from Flag Hill re irrigation, Demeritt Hill farm irrigation. Soil/Compost NRCS/ Soil Conservation District. Dorn can talk about soil health. Meeting: Tuesday, 9am library, 11/21, maybe.

D. All - E-Crier articles

ACTION Deb wil recycle tips from Dover into E-criert. Committee agreed she may send the tips at will. Dean suggested we add our logo and an explicit Thank You to Dover Plastic Reduction Group

ACTION Erik e-Crier article re raking yards.

ACTION Dean will send out link to logo in shared space

E. Dean - Grants N/A

F. Other N/A

V. New Business

A. Annual Report

B. Other

Chuck: Ag breakfast had more food than people, at the Grange. Durham Library will have a program on climate at 5:30 tonight.

Dean reported on the ORHS Sustainability movie last week. There was a Sustainability event in Portsmouth; Dean and Katrin attended. Dean reminds the committee members who attend such events that the committee will generally reimburse fees/dues for such events.

Kiss the Earth: film shown in Madbury Church

Chuck: We'll be having a Friends meeting program: Creating a Peaceful World, next couple weeks, Coast bus system. Chuck will share details.

Chuck: I've been reading Transition Town, a movement started in England. It's about ways of communities to transition to sustainability. Book. Consider looking at it as a committee. **Transition Town**. Dean will look it up and share a link.

VI. Public Comments N/A

VII. Closing Actions

- A. Future Meeting Dates: Second Tuesdays, 7pm in the Safety Complex.
December 14, 2023
- B. Agenda Planning for Next Meeting

VIII. Adjournment

Deb moved , Chuck 2nd 4-0 roll call vote. Adjourned 8:20 pm