



**Lee Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting
APPROVED Minutes**

**September 15, 2020 at 7:00PM
via Zoom**

Meeting ID: 923-766-4832

Password: 136658

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9237664832>

Or Via Telephone

Call: 1-646-558-8656

Members present: Paul Gasowski (chair), Jennifer Messeder, Dean Rubine

Members absent: Chuck Cox

Public Present: N/A

I. Call to Order 7:01 pm

II. Preliminary Actions

A. Introduction N/A

B. Approval of Agenda

Approved basically unchanged, Dean will add additional composting information under M. Morrison heading, Jen will discuss different articles than indicated. Jen moved, Dean 2nd, Roll call vote, 3-0.

C. Approve Minutes

6/16/2020

Jen sent notes Dean meant to include. He will include them in the approved minutes. Penny Hardy emailed to ask if the LSC had an Amazon affiliate link, which we do not.

Jen moved, Dean 2nd, roll call vote 3-0 as amended

D. Correspondence/Events

Erika Hunter applied to LSC; committee reviewed application. Ms. Hunter thinks the committee should be more vocal about the drought. Dean moved the LSC approve the application and

recommend to the select board to do the same. Jen 2nd. Roll call vote 3-0. The chairman will forward the application to the select board.

From Julie Glover, town administrator. We cannot use the town's Zoom account because Advisory Budget Committee now meets Tuesday nights and has priority. Suggested we approach Caren Rossi to share Planning Board account. Person with account has to start every meeting and hand off to chair.

Jen corresponded with Steve Bullock, Lee Public Works Director, Transfer Station Manager. Sent office paper and magazine article for his review. Steve did not directly answer questions, saying the transfer station would post people at the wall to answer questions when the program began. Jen thought it better to attempt to educate folks before they arrive.

III. Discussion Items/Updates

A. [Pushed to later hoping Maggie Morrison will join]

B. Paul: Budget

Dean moved that Paul prepares a draft budget to be discussed online, including figuring out what happened last year. Jen 2nd. Paul suggests including \$180 for Zoom license. Roll call vote 3-0.

IV A. Report/Next Steps: Dean -> TS Volumes

Dean will get 3Q data from Steve, graph, draft article, submit. 2Q chart indicated increases in MSW, cardboard and aluminum cans.

Paul suggested including glass. Jen suggested: #2 natural and #2 all color plastics. Dean will ask Steve Bullock for data after the third quarter ends (Sept 30).

C. Update: Jen: Articles for Web Page, E-crier

Recess until 8pm.

Link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14JVBn3n5Ap7bBKUE0nFgS-XE9PeuGggg>

Jen's 09 Plastic #2 Mixed Colors – unchanged

Jen's 10 Plastic #1 -- unchanged

Jen's 11, Steel Cans – unchanged.

Jen will experiment with making a single PDF of One Bin at a Time, table of contents.

Dean moved approval of these three articles, Paul 2nd, 3-0 roll call vote. Thank you Jen.

III A. Maggie Morrison (ORCSD Sustainability Coordinator): ORCSD Waste Stream Audit Report

Paul: ORCSD Sustainability advisory committee is looking for a response from us. They're meeting soon, they only meet three times a year.

Paul: School will no longer use Mr. Fox or Cassella.

Dean: Durham is in the middle of doing a six week compost experiment.

Paul: It's a collaboration between Integrated Waste Management Cmte and Durham Recreation Cmte. Six week home collection, giving away bins, sharpen awareness, get an idea of how many are participating.

Dean: Is that different than what Maggie Morrison is proposing?

Paul: We should ask Maggie Morrison how they're related.

Jen: Since there are so many unanswered questions we should ask Maggie, getting clear on exactly what she's asking the LSC to support, or to recommend to our select board.

Jen will draft reply to MM and ORCSD Sust Committee. Jen: Thanks for sending this Maggie. We look forward to working with you, the district, the transfer stations and the towns to explore future sustainability opportunities. Dean moved, Paul 2nd, Roll call vote 3-0

Dean: I was preparing for a meeting with the ORCSD finance committee July 29th, 2020. It was a historic meeting, the first of the three towns and the district since the coop was formed. In preparation I spoke to Mike Nork of NH DES. One idea I floated was Garbitrage, letting the other towns throw their MSW in our transfer station. Mr. Nork said that would require a permit amendment (his common refrain). But at the July 29 meeting Lee Selectman Bugbee reminded Durham that they used to be part of the Lamprey regional cooperative that offers us these good rates and that perhaps they could simply reactivate their membership and get the better rate. Durham will look into it.

My main concern was municipal food composting. I've been waiting for that to happen since the law passed in 2015 that asked the NHDES to rewrite the meat and dairy disposal rules potentially allowing municipal scale composting of food waste at transfer stations. After failing again to get a reply from original sponsor Senator Fuller-Clarke I connected with Lee state rep Gourgue and Senator Watters who pointed me to Deputy Speaker Karen Ebel. She was upset with the veto the day before which would have provided NHDES resources to actually do the required

rewriting. Apparently they're chronically understaffed and have to comply with newer laws forcing them to respond to permit applications within 30 days, leaving them no time for rewriting rules. Deputy Speaker Ebel directed me to contact Mike Nork, head of permitting and design review at the Solid Waste Management Bureau at NHDES.

Mr. Nork said if a municipality was to make a composting proposal that included meat and dairy composting, the NHDES, understanding that this rule change should already be in place, might be favorably disposed toward granting a waiver. That was surprising news that Mr. Nork volunteered. Mr. Nork said no municipality has yet applied. After further discussion he offered that it would take roughly a quarter of a full-time employee's time to maintain a municipal scale composting facility, mostly ensuring a proper mixture that allows effective composting with minimal odor.

I asked Mr. Nork about the three towns adding their compost to UNH's Kingman Farm. They would have to amend their permit application, he answered.

I have in my notes that Durham was exploring a company Agricycle Energy Maine, which purportedly pays for food waste they'll compost. I'd rather be paid for compost than have it be a cost. But the upshot of the call with Mr. Nork was if the three towns wanted to do food composting at one of the transfer stations, the NHDES seems favorably inclined.

Paul: ORCSD was in on Agricycle Energy Maine as well. We need to talk to everyone. This proposal is different than what MM and Durham are doing. I will try to gather everyone for a meeting.

IV. C. Update: Paul-> Models for Lee Cottage Industry, Craftspeople and Artisan Directory

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vuKEIJjQY8RQWmMjYFFkiZpwsChEd3a>

Paul: We're running out of time for this meeting; please comment on the linked document.

IV. D. Next Steps: Drought/Groundwater Awareness

Paul: Town needs to be more out front talking about the drought.

Dean: Maybe we can republish what we did last time, including the link to the Water Awareness document.

Jen: Raindrops Aren't Falling On My Head

Paul: Erika Hunter is interested, Chris Skoglund, NHDES Climate – get advice on how to get more teeth into the drought outreach. It takes six months to recharge aquifers. Once the ground freezes whatever's down there is what we're living with until next spring.

V. Adjournment

Zoom timed us out 8:40; we'll consider that adjourned.

VI. Closing Actions

A. Future Meeting Dates: 10/13/2020, generally second Tuesdays of the month, 7pm

B. Agenda Planning for Next Meeting: N/A

Draft Respectfully Submitted, Dean Rubine