



Lee Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

APPROVED Minutes

November 10, 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

I. Call to Order 7:01 pm

The chair read the COVID-19/Zoom Meeting statement pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order 12.

Members present: Paul Gasowski (chair), Jennifer Messeder, Erika Hunter, Chuck Cox (missed attendance roll call, joined 7:15 pm), Dean Rubine (missed roll call, joined 7:40 pm)

Members absent: N/A

Public Present: N/A

II. Preliminary Actions

A. Introductions

N/A

B. Approval of Agenda

Paul Add: Chuck Cox III.F, BFI update

Jen moves, Erika 2nds, roll call vote 3-0.

C. Minutes: Approve Minutes from 9/15/2020 and 10/15/20

[8:30 pm, everyone present for minutes.]

Jen: I emailed Dean the notes to include in the June minutes.

Dean: Thank you Jen; I'll get those out.

Paul: Let's look at these minutes next meeting

D. Correspondence/Events: Julie Glover, Denise Duval, Rich Messeder, Caren Rossi

Paul: Busy month, all correspondence included in agenda, to be discussed at this meeting.

III. New Business

A. Update: Zoom Account Upgrade to Annual Account

Paul: No more 40 minute termination; good as long as we want to go. We were put on an existing account. LSC paid \$70 for a half a year through March; will renew if needed. We could share the account with other committees and commissions.

Erika: Really glad that happened -- thanks Paul for spending the time on this.

B. Update: LSC Proposed Budget for FY22 and ABC Review

Paul: ABC meeting now; I'll check if they've changed our \$500 budget.

C. Update: Jen- Office Paper and Magazines Articles for E-Crier

Jen: We can review the book of One-bin articles.

Erika: Jen can you give an overview of where this is going?

Jen: We've been doing this One Bin series since April 2019, each article one page about one bin. Two new articles for E-Crier are about the changes for office paper and magazines. The pdf is a collection of all the articles for our web site; we don't currently have plans to distribute paper copies.

Erika: The website is something you see at home; a paper copy people can keep in their cars or see at the transfer station. I think that would be more effective.

Jen: At the transfer station the staff posts examples by each bin; that's been the way for many years. The E-Crier articles help folks get organized at home; decide where and how to

sort. Also to help people start recycling, one bin at a time. Maybe folks start with aluminum cans to help the town ramp up from there. Our E-Crier articles supplement the signage at the transfer station.

Jen: Let's get the magazine and office paper E-Crier articles in soon -- those are the changes at the transfer station. People don't want to stand by the bin. Talked to Joe at the bin; he's saying it's not worth the work to sort paper. The information will help people start sorting better. We can make money with well-sorted office paper. Let's publish the article about magazine recycling first.

Paul: Magazine piece looks good.

Chuck: Paper is a priority.

Erika: Anything that can be done to clarify the categories would be helpful. I suggest the list be sorted. I'm an editor.

Jen: You're referring to the compiled e-book of articles. It's in priority order; getting food waste out of the municipal waste, let's collect cans; basically sorted by money.

Erika: That makes sense to me now. This sorting (of trash) is an extra job we all have, we should make it as easy as possible.

Jen: We had an idea to link a QR code on each bin to the corresponding One-Bin article.

Paul: We have management turnover at the Transfer Station and we've since settled into a nice groove with Steve Bullock. The recycling markets are all over the place. Jen, can we submit this this week?

Jen: Yes. I'll prepare and submit.

Paul: Onto the next article. Have we done corrugated cardboard?

Jen: I wasn't here last month but I think we did.

Paul: Let's do Glass

Jen: There was one issue. Toby was talking about crushing glass for road sand but I don't know if that's gone anywhere since he was replaced.

Chuck: Let's remove the reference to crushing until we know it's happening.

Jen: Other question about incandescent light bulbs. They are definitely trash. I have to ask Steve about these other things. This ran last December; we just need to correct it for the web compilation.

Paul: Please find out from Steve and make the adjustments.

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

Paul: I shared this with Julie Glover; awaiting reply. I think the next step is for someone to draft an article about it for E-Crier, and to make a plan to try to get our local artisans and craftspeople to sign up.

Erika: I'd be happy to do that.

Committee concurs. Paul: I'll hand this off to Erika. I will send you the materials; the committee has authorized you to work on them.

[Dean joins by phone]

D. Update: Municipal Composting (Dean)

I spoke to Evan Ford, Farm Manager, UNH and George Estes, originally in charge of the Kingman Farm composting project. (Paul: Great guy.) George lives in Lee; I asked him if he wanted to come out of retirement and run Lee's municipal compost pile. He said no thank you.

Kingman Farm Composting history from George Estes:

In 1990 we cleared 4 acres in Kingman farm, 2% slope. Got a windrow turner from Canada, a few pieces of equipment. We started with waste from the farm; eventually we used UNH food waste.

Our windrows were 200 to 300 feet long, with liquid manure added. Steve Bunker, superintendent of the farm, would periodically turn and check temperatures. There's a testing protocol that includes sending samples in for analysis.

The delivery was mostly by food service. The waste was dumped to make or augment windrows 12 -15 feet wide.

We marketed our compost for 10 years. From our 4 acre site we produced hundreds of tons of product. We bought a bagging unit from Concord, conveyor belt, and sold hundreds of bags of compost, as well as many customers in trucks.

The state came in 2011 and said we could no longer market our product. So now we don't make money but the composting process continues. It's spread onto farmland of UNH with manure spreaders. There's no bagging or public distribution.

Dean: George suggested we take the composting class at the University of Maine composting school at Highmore research farm near Augusta. He also suggested contacting UNH's Dean of Ag and Office of Sustainability.

Dean: I also spoke to Evan Ford of UNH.

He estimates they process 1500 pounds of waste a day 5 days a week. Two students put in 2 or 3 hours five days per week bringing the food waste from the dining hall and dairy greenhouses. It's not a commercial operation. It's on the back burner, no research currently.

It's only odiferous when we turn the compost. We test with a three or four foot temperature probe, monitor temperature, once it decreases we turn it. The best case is every seven days.

Evan didn't know anything about Agricycle Maine taking UNH's food waste.

Paul: Did you have a chance to talk to Maggie [Morrison]

Dean: Not yet. I will call Maggie and Amanda.

Erika: What was the violation?

Dean: They violated the meat and dairy disposal rules of the NH DES. In 2015 a law was passed that directed the DES to rewrite the rules to make it easier for municipalities to compost food waste. Unfortunately, the DES was too busy and this never occurred. When I spoke to Mike Nord at DES he said they understood the rules should be changed by now and they would be

inclined to grant a waiver to allow a municipal composting operation that processed meat and dairy.

Erika: What did that mean to you?

Dean: It meant that the obstacle keeping towns from food composting was gone. Right now Lee and the schools pay to compost via Mr. Fox, Durham is doing a composting pilot program, UNH has Kingman Farm and maybe Agricycle Energy. Now seems like the time to at least consider the option of municipal composting at the transfer station.

Paul: Dean will follow up with Maggie and Amanda

F. Backyard Farming Initiative (Chuck)

Chuck: I spoke with Jill Nooney and Wink Marney (?) who were not interested in doing a virtual presentation. I will talk to Ruth and Donna Lee. I will contact some other groups (Braiders). Ryan and Matt Rowell are still interested in presenting.

Dean: Ask Bob Barth again.

Paul: Please check if the Ag commission wants to do Zoom. Eric Sawtelle has no interest in virtual meetings.

Chuck: Ruth can handle that through the library.

G. Articles for E-Crier. Dean

Dean: I drafted one about the drought and one about the transfer station.

Jen: Add a comma in the first sentence and swap the order of the pictures.

Paul: Let's run the drought article and magazine article for the next two weeks, then the transfer station article.

Dean: OK; I'll submit the drought article to Denise and tell her to expect two articles from LSC. I'll submit the transfer station piece in three weeks.

IV. New Business

A. Next Steps: Drought/Groundwater Awareness

Rich Messeder's Proposal

Jen: We were concerned at home because we have a dug well. We popped the cap and measured the water level, which was low. Rich wanted to come up with an easier way to measure the water level than lifting the old, worn-out fifty pound cement access cap. We replaced that with a plastic cap from Eliminator but we still didn't want to open it up every time to measure. Rich is putting together a sonar device to measure the level. It would be installed permanently inside the cap I think -- it's still a work in progress. Different wells might want different installations. There's a device connected outside and we bring our meter device out and connect to that one when we want a measurement.

Paul: What do you see as the committee's involvement?

Jen: We want to share the design with the community. We thought we should let the committee know what we're doing. Given the concern about well health this is a way for people to measure the water levels in the shallow, dug wells, thirty to fifty feet.

Dean: Not for deeper, drilled wells?

Jen: Not this design. Do deep wells have problems?

Paul: There are commercial devices that use sonar for measuring wells. There is also a NH DES database of all wells from 1985 forward. Lee has 837 including ours. Date of drilling, depth, output, etc. I will share a link. It doesn't tell you how the wells are doing these days, but the state does have monitor wells, including in this area. I emailed Caren Rossi to find out what parts of Lee are on community wells; she had no record.

Erika: Swann Dr. is on a community well, I think just one.

Paul: I shared this with the town administrator and Julie was concerned: it wasn't clear if you and Rich wanted to market this, which the town can't get involved with due to legal issues.

Jen: We have no intention of selling anything or doing anything for people directly.

Paul: Julie was concerned about just giving away information like parts lists and instructions is a transaction that the town would prefer to avoid. There's concern that Rich is not a professional in this field. There probably are people in Lee that offer this service -- the town would not want to be seen as preferring one vendor over others.

Chuck: Farmhack might be interested in this. Farmers with technical skills; lots of remote monitoring of fields and greenhouses, all open source. DES would be interested in information beyond their monitoring well.

Paul: There might be a way to write it up as a story, one family, one well, keep it general.

Jen: The point was to share the details; if it's not appropriate or not legal, that's that.

Erika: I don't know if that's true; this would be helpful to many people. Cooperative extension. Paul's idea about an article is good. Sharing is a great idea; it just can't be under the aegis of the town. It's worth sharing.

Paul: It's worth trying to write an article for the E-Crier, giving information without making an offer. Let's see what Julie's comfort level is with that. It's her job to weigh in on behalf of the town.

Jen: It's not clear what's allowed. Where's the line between safe and liability?

Paul: Avoid details of prices and vendors -- make it a story.

Jen: Our well is old and we're worried about it failing. The problem we're solving is how to check the level of a dug well without having to open it.

Paul: Julie needs to look at something to judge. NeighborLee has more subscribers than E-Crier and avoids any issues with the town. We'll just keep Julie in the loop if you want to run it in the E-Crier.

Jen: I'll talk to Rich; I don't know if he's interested in writing an article for the E-Crier.

B. Annual Town Report

Paul: I will send last years, start something for this year. Everyone can edit; it's due Nov 25th; town report comes out in March.

C. Meeting Dates and Conflicts

Paul: Amanda Gourgue, recently re-elected state rep, is chair of Lee Dems. They meet the same night as us. She was wondering if we could move our date?

Committee discussed dates; Tuesday best; second or third.

Paul: I'll check with Amanda and look at the town meeting calendar and make a recommendation; we'll probably have to revisit things when we meet in person.

Next meeting: December 8

V. Public Comments N/A

VI. Closing Actions

A. Future Meeting Dates

12/8/2020, generally second Tuesday of the month, 7pm

B. Agenda Planning for Next Meeting

see above

V. Adjournment

Chuck moved to adjourn, Dean 2nd, Roll call vote 5-0, Adjourned 8:45 pm.

Draft Respectfully Submitted, Dean Rubine