



**Lee Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2021 7 PM**

Members present: Paul Gasowski (chair), Chuck Cox, Jennifer Messeder, Dean Rubine (via speakerphone).

Officials Present: Katrin Kasper

Public Present: Bambi Miller (arrived around 7:30)

I. Call to Order 7:02

Dean is participating by speakerphone. Roll call votes are required.

Katrin got the word that Select Board members can also be part of the quorum and vote.

II. Preliminary Actions

A. Introductions: Guests N/A

B. Approval of Agenda

No changes.

C. Minutes: Approve Minutes from 9/14/21, 10/12/21

Katrin moved, Jen 2nd. Roll call vote: 5-0; 9/14/21 minutes approved as amended.

Committee discussed whether "I" should be used in the minutes; Paul will research.

Chuck moved, Katrin 2nd, Roll call vote: 5-0: 10/12/21 minutes approved as amended.

D. Correspondence/Events: Steve Bullek, Rebecca Perkins-Kwoka, Mike Nork, Misty Lowe, Jim Rozycki

Paul: I asked Public Works Director Steve Bullek about the rules about composting last week; he said the state meeting that was supposed to happen did happen but he wasn't notified so he missed it. He said he would send me a copy of the rules when he got them.

Dean: I have two pieces of correspondence related to the new municipal compost rules. One from Mike Nork of NHDES informing me that I will receive updates on the drafts when

available, and another from Senator Kwoka saying October 21 might be the date the rules become public. I've shared them with everyone and I'll include them in the minutes.

I checked just before this meeting and I haven't received anything further from Mike Nork. I'll of course share any further correspondence with the committee.

Subject: NH Composting Facility Regulations – Upcoming Rulemaking

From: Nork, Michael <Michael.A.Nork@des.nh.gov>

Date: Fri, Oct 22, 2021 at 1:57 PM

Hello Everyone,

You're receiving this message because of your prior involvement with NHDES' Composting Stakeholder Workgroup, or because you had otherwise expressed interest in composting in NH.

I'm writing to announce that NHDES is currently preparing to publish proposed revisions to the requirements for solid waste composting facilities. There will be opportunity for public comment (via public hearing and/or written comments), and we would welcome your feedback.

Once the official rulemaking notice has been published and a public hearing has been scheduled, I intend to notify you all. For now, I just wanted to give you a heads-up, and potentially cull old/invalid emails from my list. Feel free to forward this message to others that may be interested in this rulemaking.

If you would like to be removed from this contact list, please just let me know.

Thank you for your interest in advancing NH's capacity for organics diversion! This has been a much longer process than I think any of us would have preferred, but I am excited that we are making forward progress. Please stay tuned for more...

Best regards,

Mike

Michael Nork

Supervisor - Materials Management, Education & Planning Section

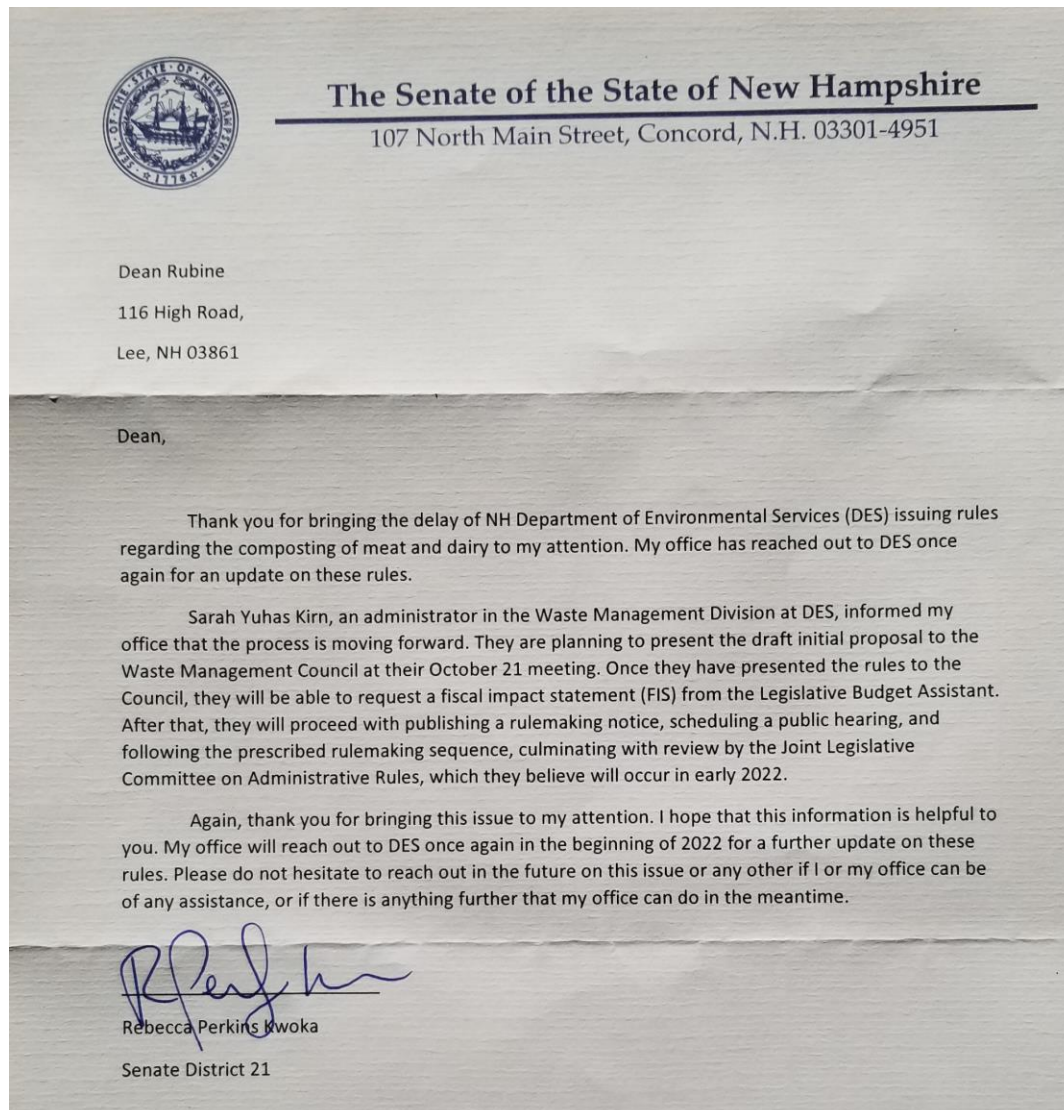
Solid Waste Management Bureau

NH Department of Environmental Services

(603) 271-2906

michael.nork@des.nh.gov

Letter from Sen. Kwoka, received 10/23/2021.



Paul: I communicated with Misty Lowe, principal of Mast Way School, and reminded her about Lee's Trees. I will follow up.

Paul: I spoke to Oyster River Schools Facilities Director Jim Rozycki regarding our proposed artisan craft fair, more later.

E. Other: N/A

III. Discussion Items/Updates

A. Dean/Paul: Lee's Trees: Then and Now Update/Next Steps

Paul: I will contact Catherine Fisher, she has connections at Mast Way.

Dean: Thanks for entering Paul.

Paul: It's challenging to fill out the entry because the pdf file isn't a form.

Dean: Only one entry so far.

Jen: We need a media blitz. It's a harder theme this year. I will submit my sample entry soon.

Dean: I'll get a sample entry in as well.

Katrin: I have to figure out where my old pictures are.

Dean: I will repost on NeighborLEE.

Katrin: Remind our cosponsors to also post, enter.

B. Dean/Chuck: RCWG Update/Municipal Composting

LSC Draft Recommendations to RCWG re. Chloe Gross' Report

Katrin: I was shocked at the idea of having neighborhood piles because we're surrounded by bears.

Dean: Good point. I'll reflect the concern in the document.

Paul: We should involve Director Bullek and the Select Board.

Dean: The current plan was for the RCWG to generate recommendations, which will then be presented to our higher ups.

Paul: When did you contact Senator Kwoka and Mike Nork?

Dean: I discussed the compost issue with Senator Kwoka when she was a candidate, summer 2020. As senator, she's sent me two letters on the issue, which I've shared. As for my communication with Mike Nork of NHDES, the LSC had a long Zoom meeting with him in December 2020 that included Durham, ORCSD and UNH folks. That was effectively the first meeting of the RCWG, which was officially formed a couple of months later. The LSC agreed to keep him informed of any progress; to this end I've sent him one or two emails since then with links to RCWG minutes over the past year.

Paul: The RCWG frames ideas and concepts and approaches; Steve and the Select Board should see drafts, not just the finished product.

Jen: We can refresh our memory as to what the workgroup process is, and determine if Steve and the Board want to see drafts.

Katrin: I think we on the Select Board would want to have a list of narrowed down recommendations we could consider and decide YES or NO on each. Steve could help with narrowing down and adding dollar values.

Dean: One of the likely recommendations is to gather the dollar values associated with various plans; the committee hasn't done that yet.

Chuck: I haven't felt the RCWG has produced a concrete proposal. It's dependent on what these municipal compost rules will be.

Dean: My guess is the need for the variance for meat & dairy will be removed, everything else more or less the same. But yes, the available options depend on the rules.

Paul: Continue to work on the draft.

Katrin: It's fine to send drafts to Steve.

Chuck: We need all the feedback we can get. We're open to the public.

Paul: Once a draft executive summary is complete we should share it with Steve as a draft, allowing for further changes before finalization. We should also share with the new Town Administrator Andy Robertson.

[committee concurs]

Jen: Am I the liaison with Steve on this as well? [yes] Dean will share drafts with the LSC; I will forward to Steve.

Paul: After next Monday's RCWG meeting, please share recommendations with LSC.

Dean: OK

C. Paul: Lee Arts, Crafts and Cottage Industry Directory Update / Artisan/Craft Fair at Mast Way

Paul: I forwarded an email from Sandi Jenkins.

From: Sandi Jenkins
Subject: Artisan / Craft Fair
Date: November 9, 2021 at 7:53:26 AM EST
To: "Paul L. Gasowski"

Good morning Paul,

I wanted to provide a quick update with regard to the status of the fair. The posting that I put up on the Lee Facebook site a few weeks ago generated much interest! Seems that people are very happy that this type of event is being considered. I have corresponded with 14 Lee residents who would like to take part. They were all interested in holding an event

prior to Christmas, but they understand the circumstances under which we will need to hold off until late December/early 2022 and continue to be interested. If we decide to open participation to individuals from our neighboring communities, I have heard from folks in Madbury, Barrington, Newmarket and Brentwood who would also be interested.

I've reached out to John Hutton at Coppal House Farm to discuss vendors that have participated in their Fall harvest events, but have yet to hear from him. I've connected with Brian Seeley and he is very interested in supporting/contributing resources.

I'm off for vacation -- returning 11/27. I will be sure to connect with you upon my return to discuss next steps.

Again, thanks to you and the Committee for partnering with me on this effort.

Sandi Jenkins

Paul: We will try to work together with Sandi to complete a directory list. Part of that process would be to sponsor a craft fair where people would get a chance to exhibit work, meet each other. We would compile a list of artisans. Aiming for late winter.

Paul: When I contacted Jim Rozycki he checked with ORCSD Business Administrator Sue Caswell. We can use the Mast Way gym and there won't be any fee.

Paul: One issue is the School District has a mask policy in all buildings. Town of Lee does not have a mask policy.

Dean: If we want that room, we have to follow ORCSD rules.

Paul: There's a conflict between Lee's mask policy and ORCSD's. I don't want to be in a position where I have to enforce the mask requirement in the current political climate. The COVID numbers are getting far worse. There's a cultural rift developing.

Paul: I'll remind Sandi that late winter was our original plan. We'll have time to talk about a date.

Paul: It's unclear what Sandi's interest is, if it's commercial. There's an insurance concern. At the Lee Fair people who have a booth and sell things have to have their own insurance.

Katrin: I just went through insurance training; we need to clearly frame what we're doing, who's responsible for what.

Dean: At least the new Town Administrator is an insurance expert.

Paul: I will work with Sandi to clarify what this event looks like. I can base it on our Fix It / Mend it Workshop.

[committee concurs]

Paul: Would we be cosponsoring or sponsoring outright? Ag commission? Heritage commission?

Chuck: The more people involved, the better. Traditional crafts could involve the Heritage Comm.

Paul: Also an economic connection. Local economy.

Jen: No harm in asking other committees.

Bambi: Deerfield had a driving tour of arts and crafts in town Oct 16 & 17, 2021 (<https://deerfieldarts.com/>). The Deerfield Fair had an arts and crafts show as well.

Paul: We'll try to get a framework for our next meeting, then check insurance. If we're using a School District building we have to obey their mask requirement.

D. Jen/Paul: Steve Bullek and Transfer Station Update

N/A. Waiting for comments on the new One Bin book.

E. Paul: LSC FY23 Budget Update

Paul: No update; I'll follow up.

Bambi: The budget schedule has a 12/7 budget draft presentation, officially presented to the Select Board on 12/13.

F. Katrin: SRPC (Strafford Regional Planning Commission) Update

Katrin: I'm still trying to get information on the cost of records digitization to make our case for membership. With the infrastructure bill the SRPC will have access to more money so I think we should get more involved.

Bambi: I work with some of those people.

Katrin: I'm learning so much about what's going on regionally; we're left out by not being members.

Paul: How can we support the case for membership?

Katrin: Please send a letter with ideas for how SRPC membership benefits us to the Select Board by next Monday.

Katrin: I had no idea of the work being done on rivers and how that related to our rivers.

Bambi: The SRPC is great at putting together grant packages; they're very knowledgeable.

Katrin: They completely redid their website strafford.org which is excellent.

Katrin: Is there a way to have more community support for bridges? We're missing opportunities by not being part of the conversation.

Chuck: We should say the town should be involved with SRPC because of our sustainability work.

Katrin: A second person from Lee can join me at SRPC meetings, just so you know.

Katrin: I believe at the upcoming (November 15) Select Board meeting, SPRC Executive Director Jen Cvysz will be presenting. There are conflicting emails; I'm not 100% sure of the date.

G. Other N/A

IV. New Business

A. All: Upcoming E-Crier Articles

Jen: I want to post the revised One Bin book. I sent a link to a pdf with the changes marked. If anyone has further changes, please send them as soon as possible. I'll send the link around again.

Dean: Many folks are still under the impression that the Recycling Market is depressed as a result of the Chinese withdrawal in 2018. The pandemic changed all that -- the market for recycled waste has never been stronger. Good topic for an E-Crier article.

Paul: On Facebook, Steve showed some plastic bales ready for sale that will produce significant income.

Jen: I could combine the news of an improved market for recycled goods with the revised One Bin book announcement.

Paul: Jen sends One Bin link, everybody has 48 hours to comment, then it gets sent to Denise for posting; Jen will draft an announcement article for E-Crier that includes a discussion about changes in the recycling market.

[committee concurs]

B. Paul: Draft Town Report

Paul: Our entry in the town report is due November 22nd. I'll send a draft around. I'll remind Denise to put our committee membership in the front; we've been omitted in recent years.

Dean: Can we resurrect that document we assiduously edited previously to the point of annoying Paul? That seems like a good starting point for the town report.

Paul: I'll send it around.

C. Paul/Dean: Dedicated Committee/Commission Hard Drive Options

Bambi: The town is considering a central repository.

Katrin: Also a separate, closed system for money and financial data.

Katrin: Looking for options for town.

Dean: I need to finish that draft of hard drive options.

Paul: I'll contact Andy Robertson, have a conversation, see what his thoughts are.

Dean/All: "Lee's Trees: Then and Now"

Paul: Jen, Dean, Katrin will submit Lee's Trees entries, some of which we may include in an E-Crier article.

Other: N/A

D. All: Specific Programs to Share with Other Towns/Organizations

Paul: Jen, has your book been shared?

Jen: It's been shared with the state; Steve talked about it.

Paul: Are you comfortable sharing?

Jen: Yes. It's a public document, freely available on the website. Anyone can look at it.

Paul: Can you frame a draft email to get us to that spot where we can share?

Bambi: We can trade ideas with other towns.

Paul: It's a wonderful document and a great place to start.

E. All: COVID and Future Meetings

Dean: The speakerphone was OK but the audio kept dropping out. I think it's sensitive to the sound of my typing. It thinks I'm talking, so it mutes the others. That's not ideal for taking notes. We need better audio which avoids dropouts.

Jen: Now that we have five voting members, it's clear how many people are needed in person for a quorum - three.

F. Other N/A

V. Public Comments

Bambi: Sherry Godlewski, NHDES Resilience and Adaptation Manager, sherry.godlewski@des.nh.gov, 603-271-6801, is willing to come out and give a presentation to the public [something about farmers?]. Call and tell her I sent you. She trains conservation commissions.

Paul: Sounds like a great idea.

Jen: Is there a Backyard Farming Initiative this year?

Chuck: We're not planning to do a Grange thing; we're considering outdoor farm tours. It will be a different format. We're waiting for a new librarian.

Bambi: Little River Park

Paul: This Friday is Ruth Eifert's last day. 3:30 - 5 reception at the library. Search continues for a replacement.

VI. Closing Actions

A. Future Meeting Dates: 12/14/21 7pm Lee Safety complex.

B. Agenda Planning for Next Meeting as above

VII. Adjournment

Jen moved, Chuck 2nd, roll call vote 5-0 in favor. Adjourned 8:20 pm

Please email 'sustain@leenh.org' if you have suggestions, comments or questions. Thanks!

Respectfully submitted, Dean Rubine