



Lee Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes – August 8, 2023; 7 PM

1st floor Meeting Room, Lee Public Safety Complex
George Bennett Road, Lee, NH

Members Present: Dean Rubine (Chair), Chuck Cox

Members Absent: N/A

Officials Present: Katrin Kasper, Selectperson

Officials Absent: N/A

Public Present: Deb Sugerman, Erik Johnson

I. Call to Order: 7:06 pm

B. Introductions/Guests.

II. Public Comments:

Erik: I went to the town office and officially signed up to officially join the committee. The selectboard said yes, but I'm not sworn in yet.

Dean: Welcome to the committee. You can't vote until you're sworn in.

Deb: I haven't joined due to time constraints.

Dean: Unofficial volunteers are welcome as well.

Erik: I discovered at the transfer station that green #1 plastics are not recyclable.

Katrin: I am now a non-voting member. Two is a quorum for a three member committee; three for a four member committee, so this makes it easier for you to meet.

III. Preliminary Actions

A. Approval of Agenda

Dean: I want to talk about invasive species, but we can add it to IV B.
Approved without changes.

B. Approval of Minutes 6/13/2023, 7/11/2023

Chuck moved, Dean 2nd, 2-0 6/13/2023 minutes approved unchanged.
Chuck moved, Dean 2nd, 2-0 7/11/2023 minutes approved as amended.

C. Correspondence N/A

IV. Old Business

- A. Lee Fair, Little River Park, Saturday, September 16, 2023, 12:00pm
Compost exhibit – idea: composting giveaway

[discussion of composting at the transfer station moved to Transfer Station Initiatives, below]

Dean moved to give away approx \$100 of composting supplies at the fair, associated with a composting display at our booth and survey / entry form to be approved by the town. Chuck 2nd, 2-0 passes

Chuck brought up the topic of collecting food waste at the fair, but Mr. Fox failed to take the waste because of too much paper. Dean relayed how previously we had volunteers manning the garbage cans to assure a good sort, but we don't really have the manpower to do that this year.

Katrin: Let Denise know you want volunteers; , sororities, boys scouts

Dean: Let's float it by Steve before we look for volunteers,

Chuck: I'm on the Fair committee; the boy scouts do some food things

Katrin: girl scouts, check with Karen George.

ACTION: Katrin will look for volunteers once we get approval from Steve and the town.

Erik: Diagram on how to compost

Chuck: Don't bury animals, compost them on the farm. Big layer of wood chips, put the animal in, a little compost, more wood chips, after six months nothing left but bones. On NPR there was a report on human composting. A woman was comparing green burial versus cremation, looking at energy used, cost. She saw somewhere that farmers were composting cows. There was a successful composting of a whale. No problem with the compost, other things getting into it. She designed a stainless steel container for composting humans, after a few months they make a yard of compost. It was on the TED radio hour.

Deb: I'll find a poster of what happens to food waste when it's thrown away.

Dean: It's not that simple here as the landfill waste goes to Turnkey, where the methane is captured and shipped back to UNH.

DEAN: ACTION: I'll buy the stuff. Make a: Mr Fox Poster, composting at home poster.

Chuck: Look into vermiculture.

Erik: In the shared doc I added a link to Stanford article. Added master class gardening class by Ron Finlay, accompanying pdf, work tea. Posted links from Scientific American, Trashing Gardens, UVM: keeping wildlife away from your compost, etc.

Dean: Stanford, fancy. I'll review that when preparing the Fair presentation.

ACTION: Deb will create the survey, share with committee, submit to town (or ask Dean to submit) when ready. Survey question ideas:

Do you compost? yes/no

How do you compost (at home / transfer station / other(explain) ?

Why don't you compost?

Enter your email address to be contacted if you win, and for future communications from the LSC.

ACTION: Dean will do posters about composting at home and with Mr Fox for Fair.

Katrin suggests a motion so Deb can submit the survey to the town before the next meeting.

Dean moves that Deb has the authority to draft the survey, share it with the committee, and, when she feels it is ready, seek approval with the town administration, or ask Dean to do so. Chuck 2nd. 2-0, passed.

B. Other ideas from prospective new members / volunteers

Dean: I thought it might be nice to have Rich give a talk about invasive species, or Bill Humm. We could do it during a regular meeting time or schedule a time.

Katrin: That's better handled by the Conservation Commission.

Deb: Ask Catherine Fisher or Anne Tappan. Dawn Genes is chair.

Dean: It sounds like it's more my personal issue than one for the committee, thanks.

Deb: Plastic reduction.

C. Chuck – Backyard Farming Initiative 2023

Coming this fall: topic of water, pollution. Last time Demeritt Hill Farm, good session, low attendance, dwarf and semi-dwarf trees. Conflicted with the rec commission at Misty Meadow, getting to know your farm neighbors. Next one at Flag Hill Winery, 6pm Wednesday 8/16, grapes, They got hit hard by the late freeze. Following one at Bedrock Gardens, 5:30 instead of 6pm for daylight. Third Wednesday in September.

D. All - E-Crier articles

We should write something about composting and composting giveaways at the Lee Fair. ACTION: DEAN will draft, share

E. All - Transfer Station Initiatives

Deb: I'd like to talk to Steve about how the mr fox system works. It's hard to get bags.

Erik: Bags have been kept on the table next to the office.

Deb: That's what it should say in the E-Crier. Email steve, call him. Why don't we give out bags at the swap shop Saturday morning? Why don' we put the compost bins by the swap shop, so people coming can compost?

Erik: It's too gross.

Erik: Mr. Fox accepts pizza boxes, paper towels, napkins.

Dean: Their industrial process can handle pizza boxes; paper towels and napkins are fine even in home composting.

Katrin: Freedom cafe uses Mr. Fox for their all compostable plates, etc.

Eric: Can we get Mr Fox to talk about composting in Lee?

Dean: Sure, it's not actually a person named Fox, but they've done it here before.

Chuck: We tried it at the fair, to collect food waste, different food vendors, including paper. If we do the actual composting at the fair, give bags.

Deb: Have a poster.

Katrin: Swap shop idea is brilliant give out bags at compost,

Erik: Next to bins, also on the desk.

ACTION: Dean will draft email to Public Works Direction Bullek, re:
Compost bags at swap shop and near bins
Have associated pamphlet to go with bags re Mr Fox
Would you prefer we send these questions to you or your administrative assistant? We looked on the town page and didn't find the admin's name.
How has hauling cost changed now that we have a truck?
What is the current deal with Mr. Fox, and how do current Mr. Fox composting expenses compare with landfill waste expenses?

- F. Dean - Grants N/A
- G. Dean/Chuck – *Table to Farm Compost Initiative*
 - Dean: Work this into the Compost alternatives poster
- H. Other

V. New Business

- a. Other N/A

VI. Public Comments N/A

VII. Closing Actions

- A. Future Meeting Dates: Second Tuesdays, 7pm in the Safety Complex.
September 12, 2023, October 10, 2023
- B. Agenda Planning for Next Meeting

VIII. Adjournment

Chuck moved, Dean 2nd, 2-0. Adjourned 8:28 pm