



# Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District (NRSWMD)



## DRAFT Meeting Minutes September 20, 2023

<u>Attendees:</u>	<u>Towns:</u>	<u>Staff:</u>	
Joan Cudworth	Hollis	Jay Minkarah, Executive Director	NRPC
Mike Fimbel	Mont Vernon	Emma Rearick, Environmental Planner III	NRPC
Scott Perkins, Chair	Nashua	Kathy Kirby, Administrative Assistant	NRPC
Eric Slosek	Amherst		
Rhonda Whittier, Treasurer	Pelham		

### 1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Perkins.

### 2. Approval of June 21, 2023, Meeting Minutes

No comments. There was no quorum so the minutes could not be approved.

### 3. HHW Program Status Update

Rearick reported the following:

The August 5 in Nashua and August 26 Household Waste Collection in Pelham serviced 278 households and 220 households, respectively, which is the most we have had for the Pelham event. Traffic flow was fine. Encourage people to call ahead to Rearick and check for acceptance of especially large containers of household hazardous waste – businesses and/or households.

We have locked in the price Tradebe quoted with additional staffing, and they sent over the permits we were asking for. We are on their calendar for next year. The price provided is for three years. Therefore, the new contract is with Tradebe. Rearick informed Veolia (current vendor) and they understood it was a business decision. They look forward to future bid opportunities.

NRPC staff changes: Kathy Kirby has replaced Kristin Wardner and Susan Hickey is the new Finance Director. Financial reports are unavailable as the new Finance Manager was absent. The NH PDIP current rate is above 5% and revenue is being earned, so we do not need to act.

### 4. Styrofoam Recycling

Vince Noga (NRPC) is on vacation. Noga has been talking to a lot of communities about Styrofoam recycling to get an idea of where they are in the process of recycling. Whittier is interested in hosting events with the Rotary Club and the Rotary Club would bring the Styrofoam to Gilford for processing. Whittier requested, that if someone (in the NRPC region) could be a host for those big machines, we could continue to have The Rotary Club pick up the bags inside the styrofoam collection bins. The bins are \$3,000 apiece and the Rotary Club picks up the contents weekly. The bins are lined with bags that must be stored, but the Rotary Club will pick them up for Pelham and other towns.

Slosek is interested in more information to save the community money. Slosek stated that Amherst has had conversations about food diversion, and views community styrofoam collection as another solution to take something out of the overburdened solid waste stream. He's interested to see what comes out of this.

Whittier stated that Pelham is starting Dec. 1 with Vanguard for food composting (anaerobic digester used). They are getting two totes. It is good to get ahead of the mandates. Slosek spoke about food diversion, taking in 535 lbs. per week going back to February, but the breakeven is 600 lbs. They have a 65 lbs. per week subsidy, they are not at the breakeven point, but the costs are marginal (\$64 for February), but they are not breaking even most months. In colder months, they get a lot more food diversion. Residents bring plastic buckets with food waste.

Cudworth – practices food diversion and composting in the stump dump and growing pumpkins.

Whittier said she was going to go with Black Earth, Gloucester, MA, but in conversation, she was concerned about staff being overwhelmed. Thus, she went with Vanguard.

Perkins said that Black Earth contacted them but they have not had a meeting yet. Nashua Solid Waste gifted Grow Nashua a truck but Grow Nashua struggles with servicing the demand at this time. They have looked at getting a styrofoam machine and have considered the internal requirements, particularly the labor costs. Slosek said that having the machine will save hauling fees. However, Perkins stated Nashua also has a capacity issue and has already saved space by reducing commercial business.

Fimbel asked about styrofoam compression in a landfill due to weight alone. Perkins stated it will but with capacity issues, they would rather not accept it into their landfill. Perkins said it does somewhat but there are issues, but they are above treeline. Styrofoam and plastic bags are an issue due to wind taking them and needing to be picked up. They are going to Phase 4 (pretty much been approved – required testing – Phase 3 had to be redesigned for a raised water table) with hurdles. The expansion they are doing now will give more airspace, but it will take a long time. Phase 4 will be the final phase and much bigger in scope.

Nashua has started working with the Epilepsy Foundation with curbside pickup of textiles citywide. Residents can go to the solid waste website and that information goes to Epilepsy Foundation directly. It will not be promoted to the public, but the Epilepsy Foundation will take other items in curbside collection. Nashua made \$78 working with them. Baystate Books is in trial in Nashua and Hollis currently uses them and is pleased with their services. Discover Books is unreliable concerning pickups.

Whittier spoke about the six-pack rings, stating Hudson Brew House will take the stretchy ones which can be reused. Some other hard ones will be taken by other brewhouses (i.e., Seadog). Pelham does not collect them, but they give residents this information. This information is on the Pelham webpage.

Plastic grocery bags: Trex decks are made from plastic grocery bags. They make pickups from area grocery stores that have collection bins for plastic bags. Cudworth tried to get the bags picked up as part of a school project to collect plastic bags. There were a lot of bags, but not a lot of weight. Walmart was contacted and they were brought to the Amherst store. Trex will pick up from grocery stores but will not pick up from transfer stations. The plastic bags are 100% recyclable. Pelham directs residents to take them to their local supermarket for recycling. Hollis was going to put that on their website. Trex will donate to the schools for collecting. Nashua and Hollis were asked to acquire a machine, but they declined (Nashua due to lack of funds and machine space). Nashua posted the names of stores in the area that will take the plastic bags. Some chains stopped due to wet/dirty bags or with receipts. Trex really wants it. Amherst would like to divert residents to supermarkets rather than setting up a collection point for the bag, and the same with food waste. Composting at home is preferred, but

Amherst will take it if home is not an option. Perkins mentioned that if a town chooses to set up collection, you have diverted residents from bringing them to the grocery stores. People typically grocery shop weekly. A trip to the landfill would add another trip, using gas, etc. Whittier said VT landfills charge for almost everything except for food waste they charge for metal collection and sell it. Many signs tell residents where to deposit different types of waste.

## **5. Other Business**

**Upcoming absence:** Perkins said he is going to be having surgery and will stay in touch with Rearick. Someone from the city of Nashua will be coming to the next meeting. Everyone hopes for the best for him.

**Guest speaker:** Whittier asked if Slosek would be involved in a Styrofoam collection committee and opened it up to other district members. Whittier offered Pelham as the host of the collection event. John Bob, head of the Nashua Rotary Club. He is truly knowledgeable about this and Meghan Terrio from Gilford as well. Cudwell suggested letting the Rotary clubs take the lead on communicating with the public and picking up at a time that works for them. Organizing the collection of styrofoam would be a great service program for them. Whittier offered to invite John Bob of the Nashua Rotary Club to one of the upcoming NRSWMD meetings.

**Textile Collection:** Perkins reported that Nashua put notices up around the landfill and the next step will be putting them up on social media they are working with the Epilepsy Foundation (EF). Nashua will fund the textile collection program by receiving payment for the textiles collected that they give over to EF. It is in the works and should be ready in the next few weeks. It is a matter of getting all the contract signoffs. EF pays less than .06 per lb. Whittier said she has been paid up to \$1,000 a month for their textile collection that goes into the general fund. Whittier uses Ecosmith; they pay Pelham .08 or .09 per pound. This revenue offsets some of the landfill costs.

***Motion to adjourn by Slosek at 10:55 a.m., with a second from Perkins. No vote as there was no quorum.***

**The next meeting date is December 20, 2023.**

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Kirby, Administrative Assistant