



TOWN OF WINSLOW, MAINE

OFFICE OF TOWN MANAGER
ERICA E. LACROIX
ELACROIX@WINSLOW-ME.GOV
WWW.WINSLOW-ME.GOV

114 BENTON AVENUE
WINSLOW, ME 04901
(207) 872-2776
FAX: (207) 872-1999

Monthly Report to the Town Council –April 2022 - Presented May 9, 2022

Esteemed Councilors,

At long last budget preparation has been wrapped up and you will get to vote on the FY2023 Budget on May 9. Although there is a significant increase proposed, more than 2/3 of the required funding was able to be offset through a variety of measures including applying unanticipated FY2022 revenues to the FY2022 Capital budget for projects that will begin no later than June, applying ARPA funding to critical infrastructure needs for FY2023, and eliminating several other capital expenditures. With the CPI currently soaring it is to your credit that we got the mil increase down to .9. Now we can get back to other priorities for the Town.

The Facilities Committee met on April 5 and made some more progress towards investigating a new Town Office/Public Safety Facility. The Police and Fire Chiefs along with myself were charged with documenting our needs and wants for a new facility. Those will be brought to the next meeting to start merging them into one document so that we can begin the process of procuring an Architect or Contractor to develop proposals for us.

The April Coffee with the Manager meeting was held on April 6 here at the Town Office. Returning to a morning meeting appears to have had the desired effect and attendance was up. There was some discussion regarding the Ticonic Bridge project and a general consensus that leaving the bridge open during construction was not a desirable way to proceed. There was also discussion surrounding the need for a nuisance ordinance which would force property owners to keep their lots neat and orderly and eliminate much of the debris and broken-down vehicles we find on many properties in Town. Attendees were largely in favor of this as they felt unsightly properties were devaluing their properties and making Winslow less desirable for homebuyers. Last we moved on to my favorite topic which is Bay Street development and bringing businesses to Winslow. Utilization of the riverfront to our advantage was a major point, as well as the need to attract at least one ‘anchor business’ which would attract both Winslow residents and non-Winslow residents to our Town to spend their money. A single larger anchor business will attract and promote other smaller businesses to come in behind it. I was very pleased with the discussion in this meeting and I’m even more excited about the upcoming May meeting. I was approached by District 16 Senate candidate Kevin Kitchen about coming to my meeting, which is great as it should attract more people to attend. In the interest of fairness and not wanting to appear to endorse any one candidate I also reached out to the other 3 candidates running for that seat. Dave LaFountain has also confirmed that he will attend.

Unfortunately, April saw an outbreak of COVID within the Town Office. Myself and three other staff members tested positive for COVID, prompting me to temporarily reinstate our mandatory masking policy. Most residents accepted this without complaint as we were keeping them informed of our outbreak status and making sure everyone knew the potential for exposure before entering the building. They understood it was for everyone’s protection. There were a couple of others who challenged the requirement. I have made those people aware that the Town is fully within its rights to impose restrictions for public health and safety, and we will have persons who refuse to decline removed for trespass. Fortunately that has not had to be carried out. At the time of this report two of us have returned to work and two remain out with symptoms. No new

cases have been diagnosed since 26 and we anticipate being able to return to normal operations in time for the May 9 Council Meeting.

On April 28 I had the distinct pleasure of attending the Mid Maine Chamber Annual Awards Ceremony to watch three very special people accept their awards. First Sabrina Jandreau who is a Winslow resident and works closely with me through the Central Maine Growth Council (she's the driving force behind the Coffee with the Manager series) received the Rising Star Award. I was thrilled to see her be recognized as an up-and-coming young professional, especially since I nominated her. Second Fairfield Town Manager Michelle Flewelling was awarded Municipal Employee of the Year. Michelle is highly deserving of this award as she has had to contend with PFAS, dam relicensing and numerous other contentious issues in her Town and she has done it with a positive attitude while serving on multiple boards and committees including president of KRDA. Last, and most exciting, our own Ed Small received the Distinguished Community Service Award for his years of service on the Winslow Fire Department and his service on many committees and organizations, many of which were to the benefit of Winslow. My heartfelt congratulations to Ed on this achievement. It was wonderful to see him recognized.

Project Updates:

The new Town Website. We did not meet our deadline of launching the new website by the end of April due in large part to focusing on completing the budget and the subsequent COVID outbreak. Police, Fire, Parks, Public Works and Assessing pages are complete and updated. We just need to finish Library and Admin and we'll be set to launch.

Dude Solutions. We have two full-day sessions scheduled with the developer on May 24 and 25. Prior to those meetings I will be meeting with the key department heads (Police, Fire, Public Works and Parks) to finalize our data structure.

Junior High Environmental Study. I will be contacting two other firms to pick up where Craig Wilson left off.

Food Waste Pilot. Winslow has been awarded a Certificate of Stewardship for the 17,655 pounds of food waste diverted from the landfill by our residents as of February 2022! This is exciting news and as the weather warms we are seeing usage tick upward again. The March collection report is attached.

Agriculture Commission Report to Council – See attached.

Spring is an exciting time of year when things start anew. I am excited about our upcoming projects and looking forward to summer-time in Winslow.

Respectfully submitted by,
Erica LaCroix
Town Manager

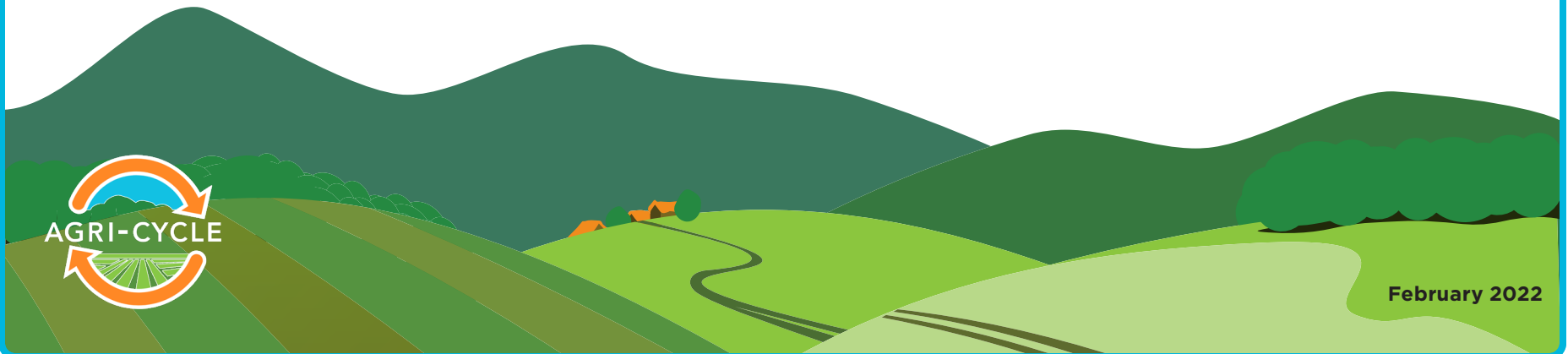
CERTIFICATE OF STEWARDSHIP

TOWN OF WINSLOW (RESIDENTIAL DROP-OFF)

Thank you for your dedication to reducing waste and fighting climate change by keeping

17,655 LBS OF FOOD SCRAPS

from going to landfills. Your work with Agri-Cycle created renewable energy, organic fertilizer, and compost, which, in turn, prevented potent greenhouse gases.



February 2022

Town of Winslow Food Waste Diversion Report June 2021 - March 2022

Community Food Recycling Winslow										
Month	Residential Food Waste						Participation		Donation	
	Number of Totes	Weight of Totes (LBS)*	Weight of Totes (Tons)*	Cumulative Costs (\$)	Cost of Landfill Disposal of Diverted Waste (\$)*	Savings (\$)*	Average Participation **	Food Donations (lbs)		
June	16	1990	0.995	\$ 205.15	\$ 64.68	-38.725	3.32	NA		
July	10	2185	1.0925	\$ 160.38	\$ 71.01	-89.3675	3.64	NA		
August	12	2050	1.025	\$ 171.68	\$ 66.63	-105.055	3.42	NA		
September	12	1240	0.62	\$ 177.56	\$ 40.30	-128.485	2.07	NA		
October	12	3000	1.5	\$ 189.04	\$ 97.50	-91.54	5	NA		
November	12	3000	1.5	\$ 191.56	\$ 97.50	-94.06	5	41,351		
December	9	2260	1.13	\$ 184.73	\$ 73.45	-111.28	3.77	47,351		
January	9	2260	1.13	\$ 165.67	\$ 73.45	-92.22	3.77	17,148		
February	12	3000	1.5	\$ 191.80	\$ 97.50	-94.3	5	20,373		
March	10	2500	1.25	\$ 200.40	\$ 81.25	-119.15	4.17	16,222		

* Data collection not complete for June, July, August, and Septmeber. Thus, weight values and savings for these months is underrepresentative of reality.
**Participation is a measurement of the percent of food waste diverted out of the total food waste generated.

The food waste diversion program in Winslow has made strong progress since the start of the program.

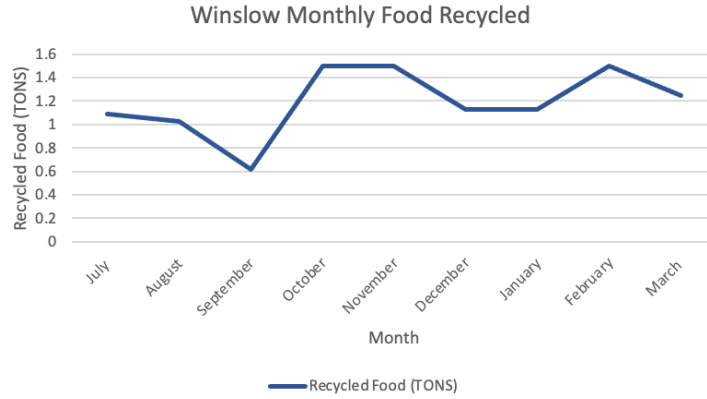
- The level of food waste recycled every month has increased since the start of the program.
 - The current level of waste diverted fluctuates between 1-2 tons every month.
- Participation with the program has growth since the start of the program.
 - Participation fluctuates between 4-5%.

While the program has made a lot of progress, we are still working towards our goal of positive savings. There are a few reasons why we are still working towards this goal.

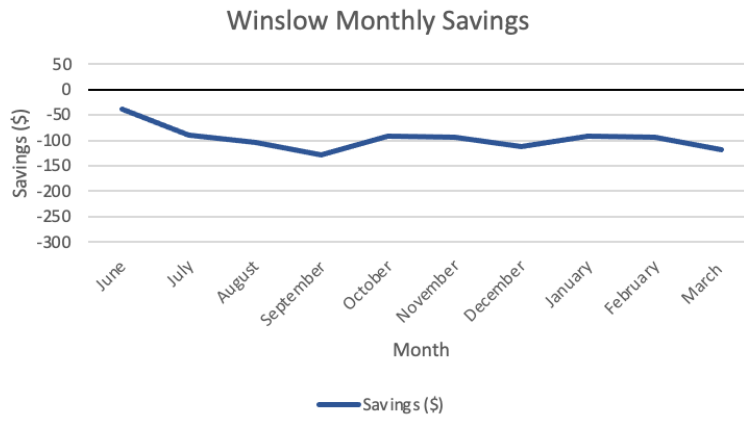
- Savings require a high level of food waste being diverted. As the program is in its first year, it is normal that we have not yet reached this threshold. The progress that we see indicates that the program is working towards that threshold.
- We still see pickups occurring where no totes are being picked up. This decreases the level of savings that the program can generate.
 - A program with fewer monthly pickups or fewer totes may be beneficial to the level of savings.

Graphs:

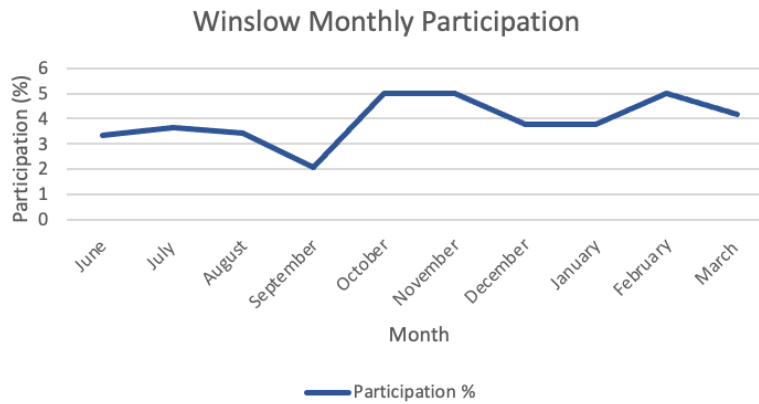
Recycled Food Waste



Savings



Participation



May 2022 - Monthly Agriculture Commission Report

To Town Council

The Agriculture Commission met at 10:00am on April 3, 2022 in the Town Council Chambers. The March 2022 monthly report has already been submitted.

One issue that has come up in the past month which we will be investigating is the need for Liability Insurance for any programs sponsored at Fort Halifax Park. Specifically we are looking at a limited Farmers' Market. This may also affect the programs like Fort Halifax Days also held at the Park.

We discussed potential strategies for dealing with PFAS (Forever) chemicals in Winslow. According to the State Dept of ACF there were no applications of sewage sludge potentially contaminated with these chemicals in the Town of Winslow. Sewage and Sludge application map can be found at:

<https://maine.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=468a9f7ddcd54309bc1ae8ba173965c7>

The town has received a third check from the harvest at the Town Forest for 12,732.50 which brings the total harvest amount to \$23,494.52

We have a meeting planned for May 9, 2022 with the following agenda.

Open Meeting

Secretary's Report:

1. Minutes of April 3, 2022

Old Business:

1. Winslow Town Forest –update
2. Sisters of St. Josephs' Garland Road Property
3. Budget.
4. Liability Insurance – Farmers Market and Fort Halifax Days
5. VMFSP – Wheeler Farm 2 year on site inspection – Monday 5/9/22, 2:30pm following monthly meeting.

New Business

1. ?????

Respectfully submitted May 3, 2022

Kate Newkirk, Chair
Town of Winslow Agricultural Commission