

Amherst Waste Committee Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2025

Present: Mary Fisher, Kim Ferullo, Ryan Licata, Kim Luangpakdy, Jean Neff, John Szalasny, Eileen Torre

Not Present: John Hannon, Judy Hendee, Don Kuhn, Diana Manus, Eustace Mendez, Megan Reddish, Josh Wilcox

I. Meeting Minutes

The February meeting minutes were approved.

II. Membership

No new members were introduced.

III. Waste & Recycling Reports

Ryan reported that we are on track for this year, with average weights for February- 2,500 tons in waste and 557 tons in recycling. The percentage of cardboard recycling is strong as well.

The RFP process for waste collection will begin in early 2026; our contract with Modern Disposal expires on 12/31/2026.

Rollout of the automated compost bins is stalled until a solution for emptying the canisters is found- currently, emptying full bins causes spillage and may attract rodents.

Curbside composting will continue this year. A PR campaign to spread awareness is needed. In 2024, pickups were every other week- some weeks had a large volume of compost and some weeks only had a handful of pickups. An email will be sent announcing the start date in April.

Finished compost will go to Noco for screening, and might be ready for the May 17th Farmers Market.

IV. Planning for Farmers Market and Village Earth Day

John drafted a flyer for our Earth Day (Sat, June 7) initiatives, which will be reviewed at the April meeting. Collections will include alkaline batteries and polystyrene.

Following Earth Day, alkaline batteries will be collected on the first Saturday of the month at the Farmers Market.

We discussed signage to promote programs like compost drop off, Earth Day, and pumpkin drop off. Mike Szukala can advise on funds available to the committee.

V. Next Meeting

7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 2025

END