

Town of Amherst Recycling and Waste Committee Minutes
August 20, 2025 at Amherst Town Hall
Start Time: 7 p.m.
End Time: 7:59 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Present: Kim Ferullo, Mary Fisher, Don Kuhn, Kim Luangpakdy, Jean Neff, Eileen Torre, Mike Szukala

- A new potential volunteer expressed interest in joining the committee. Kim L. will follow up via email and share the September meeting information.
- Styrofoam Collection: Mike is working with Steve Floss on securing a shed at the Highway Department for styrofoam collection. The shed needs an enclosure due to wind.
- Currently, the committee has no formal budget. Eileen suggested that a budget for the Waste Committee is presented during the next Amherst budget cycle. Funds would be used for printing and supplies. Funding could come from general town funds rather than highway-specific budgets to allow flexibility. The committee can demonstrate direct financial benefit to the town, e.g., estimated \$40,000–\$50,000 in savings from community composting. Mike S. will request an allocation of \$5,000 in the next fiscal year.
- Waste & Recycling Reports
 - Community Composting:
 - The community compost at the Amherst Highway Department needs signage to let people know it's free, and made by our community food scraps.
 - The Food Scrap Collection Bins are still stalled; Ryan is working on improved bins to empty them. Megan designed improved signage noting acceptable materials.
 - 93 compost bins have been distributed this summer
 - Approx. 25 totes of compost have been collected in the 13 weeks of summer's Farmer's Markets, totalling an estimated 2 tons of compost
 - Battery Collections have taken place the first Saturdays of each month at the Farmer's Market
 - June: 75.95 lbs
 - July: 66.04 lbs
 - August: 84.93 lbs
- Pumpkin Collection Event: Saturday, Nov. 8

- Eileen will draft promotional signage and materials that can be distributed at markets in October
- Information will be shared with the Amherst Bee
- We are exploring the logistics of a community pumpkin launch or drop event in 2026; the insurance for a launch event is high. UB School of Engineering was identified as a potential partner; Mike will speak with them about our safety requirements for staff and students to establish design parameters.
- New Business
 - Mike will speak with Steve Floss and request that he or Ryan Licata attend committee meetings
 - An individual expressed interest in having compost bins in his neighborhood. Kim L. will follow up via email and ask how the committee can assist their goals.
 - Ryan attended a composting program for a certificate; the committee suggested a presentation or summary.
 - Committee to review existing mission statement before next meeting. Noted section: representation should include local government, engineering, refuse, highway, compost, wastewater, and residents. Members should comments and suggested revisions to the September meeting.