

Town of Amherst Recycling and Waste Committee Minutes

September 17, 2025 at Amherst Town Hall

Start Time: 7 p.m.

End Time: 8 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

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

Also Present: Patricia Buettner and John Buettner

Approval of Previous Minutes

- Minutes from the August and September meetings were approved

New Membership

- No new members

Solid Waste Report

- Year to date waste collected is on par with previous years and on track with budget expectations
- Estimated cost for 2025: \$6.8 million (under the \$7 million budget)
- Expected to return approximately \$200,000 to General Fund

Farmer's Market

- Total bins distributed: 126
- YES students provide valuable volunteer support at farmer's market

Compost: Green Metal Collection Bins

- **Status:** On hold until spring 2026
- Four metal collection bins purchased in Spring 2024
- Features: Locking bins with phone app access and QR code reader
- Concerns addressed:
 - Community feedback about neighborhood placement
 - Logistical complications
 - Don't want bins exposed to winter weather
- Potential first location: Amherst Highway Department
- Graphics need to be updated (ie, remove the items we cannot compost- bones)

Compost Production

- Screening completed by Leo Brennan Topsoil (Town of Amherst)
 - Previous vendor produced poor quality product
 - New material looks like "coffee grounds" - excellent quality
- Compost is available free to residents at Amherst Highway Department
- Ryan will begin tallying the number of times the bins at the Highway Department are emptied

Pumpkin Collection: Saturday, November 8

Promotional Materials

- Yard signs to be created:
 - Date field left blank for annual reuse
 - Quote needed from UPS Store (approximately \$12/sign if ordering 20+)
 - Total estimated cost: \$120-150
 - Budget approval from Amherst Highway Department is needed
- Quarter-page handouts for distribution:
 - To be printed in-house
 - Distribution at farmer's market and libraries
- Timeline: Signs needed approximately one month before event

Event Details

- Two collection sites planned:
 - Highway Department
 - Village of Williamsville

Styrofoam Recycling Discussion

- A shed at the Amherst Highway Department is not possible at this time
- Alternative solutions: seek a business partner for a styrofoam collection event

Alkaline Battery Collection Program

- Alkaline Batteries have been accepted on the 1st Saturday of the month at Farmers Markets
 - June: 75.95 lbs
 - July: 66.04 lbs
 - August: 84.93
 - Sept: 105 lbs
- Action item: Contact Hazman to inquire if they accept batteries

Rain Barrel/Composter Giveaway: Available Items

- 65 composters currently in warehouse
- Town of Tonawanda may take 10-15
- Estimated 30-40+ available for distribution

Distribution Plans

- Competition/raffle ideas:
 - Pumpkin drop-off competition raffle (ie, one entry per pumpkin dropped off)
 - Farmer's market raffles
 - Last farmer's market events
- Potential recipients:
 - Schools (can paint/decorate them - see Island Park pavilion examples)
 - Community facilities
 - Restaurants/facilities meeting food scrap requirements
- We might wait until spring (plastic may crack in cold winter)

Farmer's Market Schedule

Regular Market

- Continues weekly through season
- Saturday hours: 7:15/7:30 AM - 12:00/1:00 PM
- Volunteer coverage needed; Google calendar scheduling was underutilized

Holiday Market

- December 6th at Island Park
- **Decision:** Committee will not participate

END