

## **Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Team**

**May 7, 2014**

**People Present:** Geoff Hill, Stephanie Kierstead, Ross Nason, Stu Silverstein, Lass Von Appen, Linda Woods

There were no minutes from the April meeting.

Ross summarized the Maine Solid Waste Conference that he attended last week.

Erik Thomas and Dana Bushee (Waterville City Councilors) attended as well.

There were several well-known speakers on 3 topics: organics collection, green chemistry, and product stewardship. Ross told them about SMMC, and they might participate in an SMMC event or allow us to use their materials.

Organics collecting and processing plants (aka a biodigester) may be coming to this area (Clinton, Exeter, and Plymouth) with smaller ones to be built in Portland, Bangor, and Skowhegan. Once this is completed, Ross hopes to organize a presentation about the process.

### **Old Business:**

The discussion about the Green Seal Certification continues. The highest level will go to the businesses that are "as green as they can possibly be." The Chamber of Commerce is assisting with this. Ross is talking to an unofficial professional sponsor.

Due to a change in personnel, the composting workshops scheduled for KVCC have been cancelled.

Jennifer Kierstead is talking to President Hopper in hopes of re-establishing a relationship.

Jim Easton brought his worm composting set-up to Women's Wellness in April.

#### Action Item:

Linda: Contact the Waterville Farmers' Market about holding composting workshops there

Ross is continuing to try to get SMMC a slot in the E-Z Big book.

#### Action Items:

Ross: Obtain approval for this from the Board

Christian: Check with Gary

### **New Business:**

Stu would like to see someone focus on composting at a commercial level. Pay-As-You-Throw (hopefully coming to Waterville in summer 14) should reduce the solid waste by 50%. Removing the organics for composting could reduce the waste stream by 25% more. This would reduce the City's trash load and save money. Portland has curbside organics pick-up, but they are not expanding at this time. Maybe Sullivan's would consider adding this service.

#### Action Item:

Stu: Continue to follow this issue and keep us posted

If curbside recycling passes, the RX4 Team will be assisting the City of Waterville residents with educational programs on recycling. Linda met with Erik Thomas, Dana Bushee, and Mike Roy to outline this activity.

Action Items:

Linda: Get contact info for Green Team from Eric Haley

Ross: Meet with Dana & Eric

The next meeting is **Thursday, June 5** at **noon** at **Jin Yuan** (Temple St.).