

Town of Westmoreland Minutes of The Recycling Committee (draft)

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

4:00 pm at Recycling Center

Attendees: Committee members- Harry Ackerman, Victor Kissell, Hailey Mackey, Nicole Slaughter. BOS liaison Bill McGahie. Volunteer John Harris.

Harry made a motion to approve the minutes from June 10th. Victor seconded. Approved

We discussed and positioned the location of sorting tables and bins. We agreed that signs for each table and bins/barrels are necessary for residents to know where to throw their recyclables.

Signs:

- Victor will modify the two table tops to be able to attach signs.
- Hailey will follow up with Barbara to see what signs she has made.
- We will get a sandwich board sign up in front of the compactor reminding residents PAYT starts 7/30. It will be in place by Saturday 7/12. Harry/Victor will work on it.
- John Harris said we might revise the town survey signs to announce the launch date and place them in various locations around town like the survey committee did. He will pursue.

We agreed the next informational meeting will be dedicated to sign making.

Victor reported the glass crusher is nearly operational. TBD when it will be brought to the RC and installed. Crushed glass is considerably less costly to haul/tip than intact glass and thus a significant savings and we want it operational as soon as we can. We may be able dump crushed glass on the RC premises beyond the burn pile, then encapsulated it in concrete and avoid all tipping/hauling fees. We will explore this after the glass crusher is operational. Bill said we should also consider getting a 10 or 20 ft container for glass. Both options are under consideration.

Hailey suggested the committee get a table at Old Home Days to promote recycling education. The committee would staff it, provide educational handouts and actual examples of each type of plastic, etc. We'll discuss further. Old Home Days is on 8/16 from 9:00-2:00 and we have to register for space.

John noted Walpole has separate bins for clear and colored plastic for residents, then volunteers sort it by type and suggested we could do the same. It's easy for residents. After discussion, we agreed to have residents separate plastic by type (number) for now. We don't have volunteers to do the sorting.

Nicole suggested we may want to make a map of the RC traffic routing and locations of recycling containers. TBD until we have established routing and locations. This could be posted on the town site and at the RC.

Volunteers:

- The “app” that Victor found and we’ve experimented with works well. There is a small subscription fee if we want to use it beyond the free test version. Need to discuss that fee and other impacts.
- Harry reported that the Town’s insurance will cover volunteers. A related open question is whether minor volunteers (particularly students working on school community service requirements) are covered. At this point, no minor volunteers are anticipated. Harry will pursue this and coordinate with Hailey who has had initial discussion with Westmoreland School officials.

Vacations: we discussed that we need to be sure we have “coverage”, many of us have vacations planned or in the works. Just keep the committee advised of when and how long.

Next informational meeting: Tuesday, July 15st, 2025, 4:00pm at Town Hall. We will focus on making signs.

Next formal meeting: Tuesday July 22th, 2025, 4:00 pm at Town Hall.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
The Recycling Committee