

# Sustainability Committee Looks into Adding Apparel Impact Donation Boxes

PAUL CONYERS  
HUDSON TIMES

The July 28 Hudson Sustainability Advisory Committee saw its members discuss possible collaboration with a "textile recovery company" called Apparel Impact. "What's interesting about this company is that they make what is basically a commitment that nothing turned into them will end up in a landfill unless it's dirty, moldy, or something like that," explained Committee member Deb Putnam, who wanted to put Apparel Impact clothing bins in Hudson. "They take backpacks, bags, so many things people can drop off in the bins.

Apparel Impact is responsible for all costs, they drop-off and empty the bins, there is no cost to the town whatsoever."

According to its website, the company aims to "keep clothes, shoes, accessories and textiles out of landfills" by reusing and recycling textiles when possible.

"I think it makes a lot of sense. I think over in the State of Massachusetts, you're not even allowed to throw your regular clothing in the garbage," said Selectman Liaison Heidi Jakoby. "Although New Hampshire is not currently doing that, we know it's a huge issue to dispose of clothing and have

it go somewhere that works well. I think this is a great idea, and it looks amazing."

Committee Chair Karl Huber recommended talking with the Department of Public Works before making a definitive recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

"Let's see where their head is at and how we would do this," said Huber. "It's part of the day-to-day process that may be worthwhile going forward, especially if it's no cost to us."

Members needed to determine how many Apparel Impact bins to request and where to put them. One suggestion included putting

a bin near the Transfer Station, which regularly sees residents looking to dispose of cardboard, metal, and yard waste.

"That is manned on Saturdays. There is staff there," said Putnam. "Putting it out in any other location, it would be subject to stuff being dumped."

Members agreed to do more research before revisiting the issue in September.

The Advisory Committee also continued its search for new grants that could help the town of Hudson reach more goals related to sustainability. After some research on the matter, Committee member Bob Larson

reported there were currently not many opportunities.

"Where money is available either national or statewide, it's either in litigation, or has been cancelled," said Larson. "We would not have an opportunity to apply for any proposals with a realistic chance for getting anything in return."

He recommended looking for support from other sources, such as Clean Energy NH, an organization Hudson is already a member of.

"I called Clean Energy NH and talked to Sarah Brock, who is in charge of the Circuit Rider Program

that they have, where the regional people interface with regional municipalities," said Larson. "They will be up-to-date on any changes, legislatively. Also, with their range of talking to all of the towns in New Hampshire, they probably have a good feel for programs we didn't think of. We've got to think a little bit out of the box here, I don't think we should get discouraged."

Committee members agreed to set up a meeting with Clean Energy NH.

"Grants are important," said Huber. "It's a very important thing for us to be educated on."

# Hudson School Board Reviews Tentative Budget Timeline

ALEX MALM  
HUDSON TIMES

The Hudson School Board recently reviewed a proposed tentative budget calendar during its most

recent meeting.

The schedule includes multiple additional School Board meetings in October.

"As you know, we add additional budget meeting

dates in October specifically for the board," School Board Chair Maureen Dionne explained.

Hudson Superintendent Dr. Dan Moulis said the

district's new Business Administrator outlined the proposed timeline for the upcoming budget season.

"The budget process starts early," Moulis noted, adding that the Finance Director opened the budget books for principals and administrators to begin entering their budget requests.

Moulis also shared that he recently spoke with Town Administrator Roy Sorenson and learned that the school district will present first at this year's Deliberative Session.

"Every other year, the

school district and the town switch who goes first and who goes second," Moulis explained.

The tentative date for the School District's Deliberative Session is Feb. 7, with the Town presenting the following week.

Board member Ethan Beals suggested holding one budget meeting on Oct. 13 instead of Oct. 15, but it was noted that Oct. 13 falls on the Monday after a long weekend, and budget materials would not be available until Oct. 9.

Dionne said they expect

to add about five budget meetings in early to mid-October. Tentative dates include Oct. 15, 20, 22, 27, and, if needed, Oct. 29.

Moulis emphasized that the schedule cannot be finalized until the state Department of Revenue Administration releases its timelines.

"That's why it's discussion-based," he said, noting they expect the state's schedule later this month or in early September.

Voting Day for both the school district and the town is set for March 10.

## General

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Road Bridge. The presentation only accounted for expenditures up to July 15.

"I understand exactly what you're saying, but there's no authority to increase the budget after it's passed that I know of," said Committee member Shawn Jasper. "You can't spend the money, even if it comes in, you can't spend money without an appropriation."

Sorenson conceded that the bookkeeping was a nearly unavoidable problem due to the timing of the state. He called the issue a "bookkeeping dilemma that will get ironed out in the

audit," but not a "legal dilemma," despite persistent concern from Jasper and other members.

"We're in some sort of conundrum," said Committee member Bob Wherry. "I would like clarification from someone as to whether we are in violation, and if we are, what's the proper remedy for it? As a member of the Budget Committee, I just want to make sure things are done right in the future."

Committee member Kevin Walsh added that taking in unanticipated revenue was relatively common and that the expected upcoming audit would be the best way to solve the problem.

"The town voted to approve the engineering,

but the project cost, where was that approved by the voters like anything else?" asked Jasper. "That's still my concern."

Chair James Lawrence suggested doing more research into the matter.

"There does not appear to have been authorization for the town to expend these funds for this particular project," he said. "Unfortunately, I think this harkens back to a conversation we had previously about some of the methods that are being utilized to expend funds utilized for the Target development."

The Budget Committee requested additional information for their next meeting to resolve their issues.

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