

TOWN OF MANSFIELD  
Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
July 14, 2011

Present: Knox (chair), Roberts, Smith, Coughlin, Walton (staff), Hultgren (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

The minutes of the January 13, 2011 meeting were accepted as amended.

Walton reported that since the Holinko Estates Apartments recycling pilot began in January, 2011 with a uniquely painted dumpster for recycling, the sort has been remarkably clean. From visual estimations before and during the pilot, the volume of material has not appeared to increase. Willimantic Waste Paper has agreed to continue collecting recyclables from this dumpster. It serves four of the five buildings in Holinko Estates.

The multi-family contract ends November 2011, unless it is extended for one more year. The committee reviewed recycling data. Over the past decade the recycling rate at apartments has dropped from 20% to 9%. It was suggested that citation warnings be sent to several of the worst complexes. Hultgren suggested increasing publicity. Coughlin will send Walton information about an on-line network that is gaining popularity at UConn. Smith suggested the Mansfield Patch as a possible venue for publicizing recycling. Walton will look into whether the Town has a model lease that includes language about recycling. Walton will talk to the housing inspectors about including recycling as part of their inspections. It was recommended to require landlords to supply interior recycling containers for each unit.

Walton stated that two trash containers purchased for the Hunting Lodge Road walkway are scheduled to be installed before the fall semester begins. Concrete bases need to be constructed so that the containers can be secured to the base.

Walton reported that when the Town stopped charging for electronics on November 15, 2010, the volume of electronics that are being recycled at the transfer station increased. Soon after the State law went into effect in February, 2011, the volume coming in to the transfer station exploded and has continued to be high. Since recycling electronics began in 1999, the Town has annually averaged 32,000 pounds; in fiscal year 2010/11, 56,000 pounds were collected. Roberts reported that RLG, a state-approved electronics recycling vendor, also takes refrigerant bearing appliances for free. Walton will make sure that they are included in the mid-NEROC bid list.

Walton stated that she contacted Grand Union and Big Y about their plastic bag recycling collection. Both stores have a container for recycling plastic bags in front of the store. The committee suggested that the store provide us with data on how many bags are being recycled. It was also suggested that a visible sign be created as the recycling containers are not obvious.

The committee discussed a request from the Boy Scouts to collect deposit bottles and cans at the transfer station. For several logistical reasons, including turning down other organization's requests of this sort in the past, the committee decided that it would not work at the transfer station. However, the committee recommended that if the Boy Scouts have a collection day or a collection site elsewhere in Town, it should be publicized in the trash bill inserts and at the transfer station.

Walton reported that the new paint stewardship law, requiring manufacturers to recycle unused portions of

residential paint, will go into effect either in 2013 or when the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection finishes writing the regulations.

Walton discussed having a UConn work study composting intern this coming school year to help support all the schools' composting programs, particularly Vinton and Goodwin. The Committee agreed that it is worth going forward with this idea.

There are times when residents clean out cupboards and throw large quantities of unopened cans and bottles of food in the trash. The Committee decided unanimously that the food must be emptied out of the containers so that the containers can be recycled.

The Festival on the Green is scheduled for Sunday, September 25 from 12:00 to 5:00, at EO Smith High School. The Solid Waste Advisory Committee will be called upon once again to adopt a waste station for the event.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton  
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator