

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
July 10, 2014

Present: Knox, Ames, Milius, Brendan Rempel (guest), Sheldon (staff), Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by chair Knox.

The acceptance of the March 13, 2014 meeting minutes and the May 8, 2014 meeting minutes, with amendments, were approved on a motion by Ames/Milius.

Brendan Rempel, creator of ShareStorrs, spoke to members about this newly launched on-line resource that enables members of the Storrs community to buy, sell, rent, share, swap, and lend idle goods with one another. The purpose of Sharestorrrs is to provide an avenue for residents to monetize or share their under-used possessions. After Rempel's presentation, it was approved on a motion by Ames/Milius, with Knox abstaining, to promote ShareStorrs through the Town's media outlets.

Sheldon stated that incoming and outgoing swap shop items were weighed for four weeks. From the information gathered, twenty percent of the materials that were brought to the swap shop were taken away by residents (about 275 pounds per week). Of the 80% that was not taken away, 31% was recycled and 49% was disposed as bulky waste. Members acknowledged the benefit of the swap shop since annually approximately 7 tons of material is kept out of the waste stream. They appreciated the dedication of Nora Stevens, who has volunteered at the swap shop for at least 15 years, and Sheldon's support.

Members discussed whether the policy of charging \$2 per box for swap shop donations of questionable quality should be changed to a unilateral charge for all donations. On a motion by Milius/Ames, the committee recommended continuing the current practice of charging when donations do not appear to be in good condition. Walton will publicize that the \$2 per box charge for swap shop donations will be waived, at the discretion of the transfer station attendant, for items in good condition.

Walton reported that a Chaplin resident, who rents a property in Mansfield, recently requested to use the transfer station swap shop but was denied access since she was not a Mansfield resident. According to the Solid Waste Regulations the transfer station shall be used only by the residents and businesses of the Town. After discussion with Sheldon, members recommended that an owner of a rental property is in "business" and should be allowed to use the transfer station.

The committee reviewed the spreadsheet of multi-family revenue, expenses and proposed fees using the rates that Willimantic Waste Paper Company will be charging when the new multi-family contract begins December 1, 2014. The committee approved, on a motion by Milius/Ames, the recommended rates for new services for 2, 4, 6 and 8 cubic yard recycle dumpsters. These rates pass through Willimantic Waste Paper's cost of recycle collection. The rates for all other multi-family dumpster service will remain unchanged. Staff will take this recommendation to Town Council for their consideration.

A draft letter to Storrs Center businesses was reviewed and edited by the committee. The letter asks businesses abutting the Town Square to use reusable, recyclable or compostable take-out food and beverage containers during the Celebrate Mansfield Festival. Walton will send an electronic copy to members for further comments.

The edited letter will be sent to businesses within the next few weeks. Walton will then follow up with each business to encourage participation.

Walton stated that the first Repair Café has been scheduled for September 27, 2014 from 9 to 12 at the cooperative kitchen in Windham.

Knox & Ames reported that they began using their compost containers in the spring. Knox stated that it was difficult to dig a hole big enough for the Green Cone digester because of the rocky soil, which may prevent its use in Town. Ames reported that she likes the design of the Garden Gourmet composter. Ames offered to look into neighborhood compost tumblers that are used in the Montreal area.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator