

Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 14, 2016

Present: Jane Knox, Noaris Burgos, Rita Kornblum, Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Chairperson Knox.

The September 3, 2015 minutes were accepted.

Walton reported that the Mansfield trash-related web page changes, which will include incorporating the Food Too Good to Waste (FTGTW) information, are underway. The Middle School PTA is meeting with teachers and administrators on January 21, 2016 to develop some preliminary ideas for a FTGTW campaign. Walton will follow up with both Southeast and Goodwin PTOs.

The committee reviewed the results from the October 13, 2015 town hall waste audit. It was noted that the amount of trash was minimal and recycling participation very good. Members recommended targeting the Community Center for the next municipal audit. Once the audit is completed, it was suggested that SWAC develop best practices for creating a low waste workplace.

Members listed their outstanding impressions from the autumn tour of Willimantic Waste Paper's recycling facility - the enormous volume of material Willimantic Waste Paper handles, the problems with plastic bags mixed with recyclables and that glass is being used for landfill cover rather than recycled. It was suggested that a traveling presentation may be one effective way to educate the community. Walton will look into offering something through the Library's and Community Center's programs).

The committee discussed ways to use the \$14,490 Recycling Rewards money from CT DEEP. Member agreed that buying recycle containers, creating a low waste municipal events kit with reusable dishes, cups, and flatware, purchasing a dishwasher for the Town Hall to accommodate reusable food service and replenishing the schools reusable trays and flatware are good uses of the funds. Walton will explore the possibility of a business grant program by first talking to a few businesses to gauge their interest and needs. The committee will continue to discuss this at future meetings.

Walton reported that 40 households are participating in the transfer station food scrap compost pilot, and 2,267 pounds of food scraps have been composted. Walton plans to check in with participants and enlist more households.

Walton stated that after the tour of Willimantic Waste Paper and attending a glass recycling forum in November 2015, it seems clear that putting shredded paper with cans, bottles and paper poses problems for the recycling plant and glass recyclers. A much better way to recycle shredded paper is to collect it separately. After looking at the cost of a 3 hour paper shredding event at \$875, a charge of \$3 per box would cover the cost of a full truck (300 banker box capacity). Walton was directed to line up a date at the transfer station.

Members re-evaluated the \$5 per month charge for an extra curbside recycle container. This is what Willimantic Waste Paper charges to collect a container- regardless if it is trash or recyclables. The committee recommended continuing the charge for an extra container after reviewing the single-family collection budget.

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee will continue to meet the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm for 2016. Walton asked if members would be willing to meet 7 or 8 times in 2016, rather than 6, since there are a number of projects underway. There was agreement to add a meeting in February and possibly in April. Walton will send out a schedule of the meetings to committee members.

Walton circulated a copy of the solid waste regulations, noting those areas in the regulations that could be strengthened. Members agreed that the required recycling list should be updated to include new Connecticut

product stewardship items, business recycling requirements should be clarified, a new section should be added on public space recycling, and enforcement provisions should address contaminating recyclables with trash. Walton will bring draft language to a future meeting for committee review.

Kornblum stated that the Repair Café needs more comments in order to receive the \$5,000 achievement award from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund. The Repair Café is one of five finalists being evaluated on the quantity and quality of on-line votes. The next Repair Café is January 16, 2016 from 10 am to 2 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton