

Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
April 14, 2016

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm by Chairperson Knox.

The March 10, 2016 minutes were accepted.

The committee discussed the final details of Mansfield Rid Litter Day, April 30, 2016.

Walton reported the findings from the Community Center trash audit done on April 6, 2016. A total of 86 pounds of trash and recyclables were generated from one day. Of that, 38% was recycled with a potential to recycle 8% more. About 6% was food scraps and another 37% were paper towels (that could potentially be composted). Walton will report these findings to the Community Center staff with emphasis on recycling more.

Walton stated that three workshops are being offered over the next few weeks - organic lawns, composting and rain harvesting. So far, sign-ups are low for these programs. 52 compost bins have been ordered – 25 have been spoken for.

The Middle School and Southeast Elementary School have both had presentations about food waste. The Middle School food waste challenge will be starting on April 25, 2016. There are 9 households participating.

Walton and Kornblum reported that 20 people brought in items for repair at the April 9 Repair Café, a small number compared to previous Repair Cafes. The church where the Repair Café is held did not have a tag sale that day. Apparently, the tag sale brings in customers for repairs. There was discussion among the volunteers about trying a different location for the Repair Cafe.

Most of the items discussed at previous meetings have been purchased through the Recycle Rewards grant, according to Walton. It may be too costly to install a commercial dishwasher in the Town Hall as cabinets need to be rearranged, electricity needs to be upgraded and plumbing needs to be changed. Once the final cost is determined, staff will decide in consultation with DEEP if this is an appropriate use of waste reduction grant funds.

Walton stated that CT DEEP has a draft comprehensive materials management strategy available for comment until April 22, 2016. The strategy emphasis is on reaching 60% waste diversion through product stewardship, improving municipal recycling and developing or improving recycling and waste conversion technologies. Walton is reviewing the draft.

There is interest by the public works administrators to reduce the amount of overtime spent on emptying trash and recycle containers in Storrs Center. Walton passed around a picture of a trash container used for public spaces that can be collected by an automated truck. The public works supervisor and director are considering this type of container that would be collected with the residential service. The containers are functional but lack aesthetic appeal.

Walton reported that Senate Bill 312, a bill to study the repeal of the bottle bill, will be voted by the state senate in the next couple weeks. The Connecticut Recyclers Coalition met with legislative staff to express concern about the bill and offered support in helping to improve the bottle bill rather than repeal it.

Kornblum stated that she would be willing to be interviewed monthly on the ECSU radio station, 90.1 FM, about some aspect of recycling. She is also willing to draft articles for the Neighbors newspaper beginning with the May-June issue. Her offer was gladly accepted.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2016. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton