

Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 21, 2020

Present: Julie Sherman, Pene Williams, Susan Spak, Roxana Mocanu, Rita Kornblum, Ted Busky, Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 by Chairperson Sherman. Ted Busky was welcomed as a new committee member. Jane Knox has resigned as a committee member.

The December 3, 2019 meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Kornblum/Busky.

Melissa Gates and Rachel from Surfriders Foundation teleconferenced with the committee to offer ideas on how Surfriders and the town might collaborate on an ocean friendly restaurant campaign. The fee to participate ranges from \$125 to \$175 per year, depending on the size of the restaurant. To qualify as ocean friendly a restaurant must take 5 mandatory actions and two additional actions. Gates suggested that the Committee pick a focus – such as eliminating foam takeout containers – as a way to engage restaurants. Ocean friendly restaurants receive free advertising, table tents and window decals from Surfriders Foundation. Gates offered to send an introductory letter to businesses for the committee to review. Gates also suggested that the committee consider modifying the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance to include a ten cent fee for paper bags.

After a zero waste presentation to the Board of Education in December, Walton met with Superintendent of Schools, Kelly Lyman, to discuss next steps. Lyman suggested some ways that SWAC may offer assistance, such as looking for grants funds to renovate the Middle School kitchen. The lack of space limits the school's capacity to store more items that are washable. Spak suggested looking into USDA grants. The school district has been awarded a \$2,500 waste reduction grant through Recycle CT. The grant will fund the purchase of a milk dispenser for the Middle School, washable drinking glasses for Middle, Southeast and Goodwin, and portion bowls for Southeast.

Walton contacted the Big Y store manager about SWAC's suggestion of a sign at the cash register making it the responsibility of the customer to request wrapping an item in a produce bag. The store manager was not amenable to the idea. She stated that baggers are trained to ask customers if they want an item in a produce bag. Tea More Café has been using plastic bags for take-out. Walton told the owner to discontinue the practice and gave her window decals and a card about the ordinance for customers.

Members got a brief overview of the solid waste budget. A transfer station breakdown of revenue and a revenue and expenditures spreadsheet were distributed. There appears to be enough in the solid waste fund to include a swap shop building and rebuild of the transfer station retaining walls. Members suggested that the swap shop building include photovoltaic panels to help heat the whole building.

At the December 9, 2019 meeting Town Council directed the Solid Waste Advisory Committee to support, on behalf of the Town, state legislation that expands the bottle bill to include more glass products, sets a minimum requirement for post-consumer content in cardboard and bans Styrofoam containers. Sherman offered to look for proposed legislation of this nature and share it with the Committee.

Walton reported that the Mayor would like SWAC to re-visit curbside textile collection. Simple Recycling is one company that SWAC had discussed previously, but dismissed because they collect clothing that has been bagged in plastic. Walton contacted them to discuss other collection options and was told that was the only

way they will collect items curbside. The committee will discuss textile recycling at greater depth at a future meeting.

A Freedom of Information program is scheduled for town committees on February 6 from 5 to 6 pm. Sherman and Spak said that they would attend.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2020. The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton