Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
February 15, 2022

Present: Julie Sherman, Ted Busky, Nikki Pedersen (pending member), John Carrington (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

Chairperson Sherman called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Approval of the January 18, 2022 minutes was deferred until there is a meeting quorum.

Director of Public Works, John Carrington, explained that the Transfer Station southeast retaining wall is scheduled to be rebuilt in this spring/summer and the swap shop building constructed summer/fall. The 50’ by 30’ building kit will be purchased through building consortium Sourcewell and erected by a contractor. There was discussion about having an area in the swap shop to collect electronic items and another area for minor repairs - as long as there are volunteers to help with repairs. Carrington suggested that creating an electronics reuse space in the area where electronics are now collected for recycling does not make sense since the Transfer Station will be under construction soon and use of space could shift. Between now and the swap shop building opening, staff can promote electronics reuse in the current swap shop area. Busky volunteered to regularly post swap shop items on Buy Nothing Mansfield. Meeting attendees agreed this is a good idea. Walton will coordinate this with the volunteers, Busky and Transfer Station staff. Carrington left the meeting at 6:05 pm.

Walton reported that the Town is putting on an April 23, 2022 sustainability event (2-3 hours long). Sherman volunteered to have a table on composting with kits to hand out. Pedersen volunteered to help with a recycle sort activity. The Compost for Our Climate posters and videos can also be featured. There was interest in having a Rid Litter Day on that day. Rid Litter Day discussion will continue during the March meeting.

The Celebrate Mansfield Festival Committee (Walton serves on this Committee) has requested a washable food service proposal for their March meeting. Sherman and Pedersen volunteered to do some research on bowls and plates. Festival food vendors use about 2,000 of each.

Sustainable CT  
Walton has located a sustainable purchasing training module for municipal employees. The Ecology Center, out of Michigan, has created a roadmap for sustainable municipal purchasing. They have a model resolution, purchasing policy, fact sheets and training. Walton will pass along the information to the Committee. Human Services and the Housing Authority have not responded regarding a Food Too Good to Waste initiative. Members suggested focusing on the policy and forego Food Too Good to Waste.

Compost Campaign  
Once there is a thaw, Walton will work with Transfer Station staff to resume compost kit material collection. Sherman will attend farmer’s markets once it is outdoors. The new elementary school has an area for a backyard compost bin. Walton will inquire about how the school plans on using this as an educational tool. Does Holinko Estates need additional compost bins? If so, they could be purchased from the pre-order sale. It was suggested publicizing the apartment’s on-site composting.

Future Meeting Items  
(1) Representative Brian Smith is confirmed to attend the March 15, 2022 meeting to discuss packaging EPR,  
(2) Rid Litter Day, (3) an update on the school reuse grant and (4) use of nips money.
The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton