Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
June 21, 2022

Present: Julie Sherman, Ted Busky, Nikki Pedersen, Susanna Bekman, Virginia Walton (staff)

Chairperson Sherman called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

The minutes of the May 17, 2022 meetings were approved on a motion by Busky/Pedersen.

Sherman and Walton reported on the progress of advocating for zero waste schools. They met with the soon-to-be new superintendent, Peter Dart, who supports moving in that direction. Walton has made appointments with the principals of the elementary and middle school this summer to discuss details of school composting and further steps to take to drive down waste. Neither the Region 19 chairperson nor superintendent have responded to Walton’s request for SWAC to make a zero waste presentation at an upcoming board meeting. The Committee decided to make public comment at a Region 19 Board meeting. Walton will let members know the date of the July meeting.

Busky reported that he has not received suggestions from swap shop volunteers on the new building layout. The building construction is on hold until Town engineering staff clear away some other projects and construction costs come down. In the meantime, Busky will send an e-mail to volunteers asking for their input. It was suggested that a working group meeting be held in mid-July.

Walton is exploring two possibilities for compost collection – one with Blue Earth, a compost collector out of the Hartford area, and the other with a Coventry farm anaerobic digester that is currently under construction. Pedersen stated that she writes grants and offered to help apply for grants if needed to get a program going.

Members discussed what type of activity they would like to offer for the September 24, 2022 Celebrate Mansfield Festival. There was discussion of having information about the new swap shop, focus on waste prevention and include the recycle sort activity. For the July meeting, these details should be firmed up, along with the reuse pilot.

Walton highlighted items on the Recycling Coordinator’s report.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton