Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
July 19, 2022

Present: Julie Sherman, Ted Busky, Berdakh Utermuratov, Virginia Walton (staff)

Chairperson Sherman called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

Approval of the minutes of the June 21, 2022 meetings was deferred until there is a meeting quorum.

Walton reported that she met with the Middle School Vice Principal and they discussed forming a team of students and staff to implement zero waste strategies. Further discussion is warranted once a new middle school principal is hired. Walton will approach Superintendent Peter Dart about the formation of teams. The Region 19 Board of Education did not have a July meeting. The next meeting will be the first Tuesday August. Sherman and Busky are interested in speaking during public comment. The Sustainability Committee is willing to collaborate with SWAC on a zero waste school initiative.

Celebrate Mansfield Festival Committee members Walton and Sarah Dufresne, from Youth Services, will be going to a restaurant distributor to purchase washable bowls and plates. Members agreed that Nips funds should be used to help pay for this purchase. As part of the solid waste budget, this money can help support fund activities and special projects.

Members want to repeat the recycle sort activity for the September 24, 2022 Celebrate Mansfield Festival. Busky volunteered to create a display about the Transfer Station, with an emphasis on reuse options. Utermuratov offered to gather information about the importance of battery recycling as lithium batteries are highly flammable.

Blue Earth, a compost collector out of the Hartford area, is interested in developing and operating a small compost facility in this area. They inquired about the viability of using the Transfer Station leaf compost area, but the area is too small. Walton has been unsuccessful in connecting with a company building a Coventry farm anaerobic digester.

Walton highlighted items on the Recycling Coordinator’s report, including a Northeast Recycling Council conference in Rocky Hill November 2 and 3. The conference focus is on reuse systems. Busky expressed interest in attending.

Walton shared a draft sign-on letter from Upstream Solutions advocating for waste reduction and reuse in response to EPA’s RFI for two recycle grant programs created under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Both recycling grants lack emphasis on waste prevention and reuse. Upstream is asking for organizations to sign-on to the letter. Members asked Walton to send them a copy of the draft letter.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton