



CITY OF WATERTOWN

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: 11/13/2024

Location: 124 Orchard Street or virtual

Subject: Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee (SWARC) Meeting

In Attendance:

In-person

- Alex Lahr
- Matt Bacon
- Andrew Thompson
- Eileen Ryan
- Russ Arico

Virtual

- David Stokes (via Teams, Watertown resident)
- Mike Albano, DPW finance

Meeting Commences: 4:35 PM

1. Introductions
 2. Approval of June 2024 minutes tabled until next time (they were not emailed out ahead of time)
 3. George Proakis has the ordinance Anya wrote
 - a. The ordinance is largely about getting large scale housing and grandfathered businesses off city contracts - those cost the city money and adds to our total tonnage which we're trying to reduce)
 - b. If a tenant requests compost they can get it through their owner
 - c. He has yet to put it in front of a committee
 - d. This needs to get in front of a committee if it's going to be implemented for 25-26
 - e. Matt is poking a lot but can't do more
 4. Next steps for this committee
 - a. Alex proposes that we meet as needed and not every month from now on and, if it makes sense, continue the farmer's market presence to bring awareness and answer questions- Matt or a committee member can reach out and ask for a meeting
 - i. Russ expressed agreement
 - ii. Eileen pointed out that one thing she did was walk around and audit recycling; this is something we can still do
 - b. We're about to break 3000 households for composting
 - i. Need to push more households- may have to brainstorm together how to get more households. This could be the subject of a future meeting.
 - c. How do we get people to engage in the non-profit sphere of material reuse? (this is Andrew's field)
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5. Additional discussion
 - a. Matt is interested in reuse of construction debris
 - i. It's an education and logistics problem
 - b. Could we have some sort of "Free furniture" day in town? Or building materials swap day?
 - c. Why is furniture still being left out on trash day?
6. Follow up
 - a. Alex will email minutes out
 - b. Alex encouraged Andrew to meet with Matt individually

Minutes submitted by Alex Somers Lahr, Chair
