



Watertown City Council Committee on Public Works

**Councilor Piccirilli, Chair, Councilor Feltner, Vice Chair, Councilor Palomba, Secretary
Committee Meeting, July 15, 2024, 6:30 PM in the Council Office
Committee Report, August 13, 2024 City Council Meeting**

The Committee on Public Works met on Monday, July 15, 2024 in the City Council Office at 6:30 PM to interview Lise Paul and Andrew Thompson for appointment to the Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee (SWRAC) and Judy Fallows for reappointment to the SWRAC. All the members of the Committee were present. Councilor Piccirilli began the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Lisa Paul was the first candidate to be interviewed. Councilor Piccirilli introduced the Committee to Ms. Paul. In response to the question of why she would like to serve on the SWRAC, Ms. Paul said she is passionate about addressing climate change and is presently active with Watertown Faces Climate Change. She feels that food waste and refrigeration are important issues related to climate. She wants to do more to make composting as easy as possible and believes Watertown should consider following Green Newton's support for placing composting bins at various locations in the city. She is also an advocate for "Rescue, Re-use, Compost" in relation to food products. Ms. Paul has recently retired after years in finance and contract negotiations and feels she could be helpful as the City enters into negotiations with Wheelabrator and Black Earth.

Councilor Palomba made the following motion –

The Committee on Public Works recommends that the full City Council approve the appointment of Ms. Lise Paul to the Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee for at term expiring May 15, 2027.

Councilor Feltner seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Andrew Thompson was the second candidate to be interviewed. In response to the questions of why he would like to serve on the SWRAC, Mr. Thompson said that he has been a resident of Watertown for a while and wanted to get more involved in helping his community. He visited the City's website and felt that the SWRAC was in line with his experience and interests. Mr. Thompson has extensive experience in reuse and recycling of construction materials. Presently he works at Boston Building Resources, a Roxbury-based non-profit building materials reuse center. He has served on MassDEP's Reduce and Reuse Working Group and MassDEP's Deconstruction Working Group. He is passionate about building networks for reuse of construction debris and would like to see how Watertown can contribute to existing networks.

Councilor Palomba made the following motion –

The Committee on Public Works recommends that the full City Council approve the appointment of Mr. Andrew Thompson to the Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee for at term expiring May 15, 2027.

Councilor Feltner seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Judy Fallows was the third candidate the Committee interviewed. The Committee acknowledged Ms. Fallows significant contributions over many years to Watertown, particularly as the Garden Coordinator for the Watertown Public Schools since 2015 where, among other accomplishments, she planned and planted learning gardens at the three elementary schools. When asked what she thought the SWRAC had accomplished since its inception, Ms. Fallows mentioned its input to the current contract with Republic, working closely with the Recycling Coordinator to increase awareness of recycling, regularly tabling at the Faire on the Square, advocating for the additional part-staff recycling staff, and advising on the pending recycling ordinance. Looking toward the future, she sees the SWRAC as working to increase recycling and composting by renters, advising the new Recycling Coordinator, and supporting the implementation of the recycling ordinance if it is approved by the City Council.

Councilor Palomba made the following motion –

The Committee on Public Works recommends that the full City Council approve the reappointment of Ms. Judy Fallows to the Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee for at term expiring May 15, 2025.

Councilor Feltner seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.