



WATERTOWN

MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Date: February 11, 2026
Location: Virtual on Teams
Subject: Minutes: Solid Waste Recycling Advisory Committee (SWARC) Meeting February 11, 2026

In Attendance:

Matt Bacon
Martin Solomon
Lise Paul
Eileen Ryan

Meeting commenced at 4:36 pm

I. Minutes approved without amendment

III. DPW updates

a. Republic Strike

The City completed negotiations with Republic to ensure that the taxpayers do not pay for extra costs incurred during the strike. Everything requested by the City was achieved.

b. Other DPW Updates

- i. Matt Bacon on-site at DPW beginning March 3rd
- ii. Waste Reporting to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MEPA) no later than February 15, 2026
- iii. Composting – 100 additional signups. Possibly more following Eileen Ryan's and Ann Munson's efforts at the Stem night at the Hosmer school on January 15th.
- iv. Earth Day celebration will be Saturday, April 19: 10-2 Jewish Community Day School Parking Lot. Vendors being signed up. Compost giveaway, Styrofoam, shredding, more.
- v. Hazardous Waste dates for 2026 – 8 days, but dates uncertain.
- vi. Swap Shop opens April 4th. Thereafter, first Saturday through November. 10am -2pm. Notice to existing volunteers beginning March. Need more volunteers. Notices at library, First Parish, Payson Park Church

IV. Recycling: Repeat offenders' enforcement

Usually, the problem is positioning the bins, or use of bags in recycling bin

- a. Current process: Do not pick up and place an orange sticker stating the problem
- b. New: when an orange sticker is affixed, also attach the recycling info-guide to the lid to provide further education.
- c. New: As new recycling bins are issued to new residents, the bins will have the info-guide sticker



WATERTOWN

MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

V. Solid Waste Metrics included in the 2022 Climate and Energy Plan

Matt would like the committee to propose metrics for consideration by City staff.

- a. Committee discussed:
 - i. The expanded Bottle Bill under review by the State legislature would reduce waste tonnage.
 - ii. The waste metric denominator. Doesn't really match the numerator. What would be better?
 - iii. The waste tonnage – what exactly is included?
 - iv. Should metrics be broken down more finely as tasks, as drivers?
- b. Next meeting Waste Metric brainstorm will be sole agenda item

VI. Mixed paper bin at recycling center

Find a facility that accepts source-separated recycling then do the costs of providing a separate paper bin.

- a. Matt will call the Town of Carlisle to see where they send their source-separated recycling
- b. Other sources: just-zero.org, Town of Irving used to recycle paper

VII. Other business:

- a. Plastic lined paper cups are recyclable
- b. Next meeting March 4, 4:30 pm in person at the DPW

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 5:37pm

Minutes submitted by Lise Paul
