



Watertown City Council Committee on Public Works

Councilor Piccirilli-Chair, Councilor Feltner-Vice Chair, Councilor Palomba- Secretary

Committee Report of June 11, 2026 Meeting Presented to the City Council on June 23, 2026

The Committee on Public Works met on Thursday, June 11 in the City Council Office at 5:30 PM to interview Christopher Coner for appointment to the Stormwater Committee, Eileen Ryan for reappointment to the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee, and Russ Arico for reappointment to the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee. Present at the meeting were Councilor Piccirilli, Chair, Councilor Feltner, Vice Chair, and Councilor Palomba, Secretary.

Please note that Ms. Ryan was unable to attend the meeting. The Committee will schedule a meeting in the future to interview her.

Appointment of Christopher Coner to the Stormwater Committee to fill the unexpired term of Lilian Muscala.

Mr. Coner and his family have lived in Watertown since 2015. He has extensive experience as an environmental scientist and consultant. He has served in this capacity for the last 15 years. He decided to apply to serve on the Stormwater Committee after he received an invitation to do so from the City.

He believes that he can contribute to the Stormwater Committee's mission because of his professional experience. In addition, he feels he can assist the Committee's public education efforts given his ability to translate technical information into language that residents will understand. While he has not had direct experience working or volunteering with municipalities, he is very interested in learning about the scientific goals of the Committee and helping to achieve those goals. He is also interested in the efforts of the Committee's chair to revitalize the Committee and increase its interaction with Watertown residents and believes he can make a valuable contribution to these important efforts.

Councilor Feltner made the following motion –

The Committee on Public Works recommends that the City Council approve the appointment of Christopher Coner to the Stormwater Committee for a term expiring July 15, 2027.

Councilor Palomba seconded the motion and it passed 3 – 0.

Reappointment of Russ Arico to the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee

Mr. Arico is proud of what the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee has done and continues to do. He feels above all else recycling has the most positive impact on our environment. He is particularly pleased with the Swap Shop program which has taken place four times to date. He has participated in three of the programs. He believes it is a great community event in addition to a valuable recycling activity as residents are genuinely appreciative of being able to bring items to the Swap Shop and at the same time leave with something they need.

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He has great respect for Matt Bacon, our Recycling and Sustainability Coordinator, who staffs the Committee. He personally does not have specific suggestions on what new initiatives the Committee might pursue. However, he believes that it is important that whatever the Committee agrees to do in the future they must create goals that can be reached for accomplishing specific goals is key to the Committee's future growth, collaboration, and effectiveness.

Councilor Feltner made the following motion –

The Committee on Public Works recommends that the City Council approve the reappointment of Russ Arico to the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee for a term ending May 15, 2029.

Councilor Palomba seconded the motion and it passed 3 – 0.

Councilor Feltner made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilor Palomba and passed 3 – 0. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:25 PM. Minutes were prepared by Councilor Palomba.