



City of Watertown

Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee

Date: July 3, 2026

Location: 124 Orchard Street or virtual

Subject: Solid Waste Recycling Advisory Committee (SWRAC) Meeting July 2, 2026

In Attendance:

Matt Bacon
Russ Arico
Lise Paul
Eileen Ryan
Martin Solomon

Meeting commenced at 4:34 pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. May 06, 2026, Meeting Minutes approved without amendment
- IV. Committee's Rules and Regulations
 - Voted to title the position "Secretary". Lise Paul will fill the position.
 - Discussion to review draft Solid Waste and Recycling committee Rules and Regulations.
 - i. Staff liaison (Recycling Manager) added formally to the committee
 - ii. Formalized roles and responsibilities for the distribution and posting of the agenda
 - iii. Agreed that each meeting agenda would list a "Bike Rack" of open action items not discussed during that meeting
 - Motion to approve the Rules and Regulations was passed by the committee.
 - Matt will email the approved Rules and Regulation to committee members.
- V. Solid Waste Ordinance
 - Written in May 2024 with endorsement memo by the then Solid Waste Committee
 - Currently under review by the Assistant City Manager
 - Matt recommends the existing committee membership write a letter of support
 - Matt presented the purpose of the ordinance and the provisions. The goal is to lower the City's tonnage and mandate that all residential premises participate in

either the City's solid waste program (buildings with 5 or less units) or for larger buildings arrange for private trash, recycling and composting arrangements.

- The committee had questions about the changes from the existing ordinance and asked about audit and enforcement and Matt explained that he would be responsible for audit as he is now and code enforcement would be through the City's Code Enforcement.
- Matt will request Code Enforcement to review the ordinance
- Matt will email the existing and revised Trash and Recycling ordinances to the committee and the August meeting agenda will include only one item: discussion of the ordinance and a drafting of support.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 5:34pm

Minutes submitted by Lise Paul, Secretary

Bike Rack

- Swap Shop – Habitat for Humanity may be opening a ReStor nearby. Matt to try to establish partnership there if provided information
 - Metrics discussion
 - ♣ Submit revision to correct 2019 baseline tonnage to match MEPA.
 - Contaminated Recycling problems - Repeat offenders' enforcement
 - ♣ New: when an orange sticker is affixed, the recycling info-guide is also attached to the lid to provide further education.
 - ♣ New: As new recycling bins are issued to new residents, the bins will have the info-guide sticker
 - ♣ Find a facility that accepts source-separated recycling then calculate the costs of providing a separate paper bin: contact Carlisle, Wellesley, just-zero.org
 - Increase # of households participating in Composting program
 - ♣ Billboard on Mt Auburn Street near Coolidge hardware
 - ♣ Mailing specifically to those not signed up
 - ♣ Targeting of new residents
 - ♣ Eileen suggested approaching Watertown Cable Access for an interview
 - ♣ City consider looking at data to determine locations where there are less signups to do a targeted awareness program
 - Brookline Public Schools – reduction in disposable packaging (Matt & Eileen visited March 2025)
 - Committee tour of Republic's new Peabody recycling facility
 - Open bid for waste hauling contract when contract ends in 2028.
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