



Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Sub-Committee

CITY OF WATERTOWN
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
124 ORCHARD STREET
WATERTOWN MA 02472

Solid Waste and Recycling advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 2, 2022
In-Person Meeting 124 Orchard St., Watertown

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

Present: (In Person) Russ Arico, Eileen Ryan, Judy Fallows, Leslie Evans (virtual), Eileen Zubrowski, Alexandra Sommers Lahr, Anya Pforzheimer, Gregory St. Louis, Megan Langan, Tom Watkins.

Member introduction: Each committee member gave background on their interest in recycling, as well as other outside interests that might connect to the recycling world, such as a focus on citywide plastic reduction, outreach, and education.

Eileen Ryan: Anti-plastic activist. Wants to move away from single stream recycling.

Eileen Z: previous recycling coordinator for City of Waltham. Wants to help with making compost program successful.

Russ: Does not believe in waste. Looking for solutions to unused materials. Does not want to force programs on residents, and glad that compost program is opt-in.

Judy: On the original recycling advisory committee. Garden coordinator for Watertown Public Schools. Connecting schools with composting program. Focusing on increasing yard waste collection.

Alexandra: Works in a school and is promoting education at school for compost and recycling. Composts at home. Wants to focus on education and outreach. Wants to end “wish-cycling” and dealing with contamination.

Leslie: Interested in Extended Producer Responsibility bills and bottle bill. Wants to focus on education, specifically through schools and reducing plastic packaging. Would like to explore takeout food options. Repair shop/ swap shop days in Watertown.

Overview of current recycling programs: Discussion of the current recycling programs. These programs include curbside trash and recycling, textile collection, expansion of the recycling

center hours, new mattress recycling program, and the upcoming change to paid bulk collection. The Recycling Coordinator talked about her role in recycling policy enforcement.

Discussion of new Compost Program: The main focus was to talk about how best to educate residents, since this is an opt in model. Anya also explained the set up for the model, and how many residents would be able to sign up for FY23, which is 1500.

Future Meetings: Anya Pforzheimer made a motion to have future meeting times on the 1st Wednesday of each month, 5:30-6:30PM at the DPW or virtually. This motion was seconded by Alex Sommers and more.

Adjourn: 2:20 pm.

Next Meeting: September 14, 2022

Contact List of Committee Members

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