



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, September 14, 2022
In-Person Meeting 124 Orchard St., Watertown

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Present: (In Person) Russ Arico, Eileen Ryan, Judy Fallows, Leslie Evans, Eileen Zubrowski (arrived at 6:15PM), Alexandra Sommers Lahr, Anya Pforzheimer, Councilor Vincent J. Piccirilli, councilor Caroline Bays (Remotely).

Previous Minutes: Eileen Ryan motioned to accept the minutes as written; Russ seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Vote on Chair and Secretary: Anya announced that Alex Lahr had been the only candidate to put herself forward for chair. Committee members applauded her for stepping up. Judy fallows moved to put a vote forward to elect Alex as chair. Russ seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously on a roll call vote. Alex was voted in as chair of the committee.

No members put themselves up for Secretary, so Anya put forward the motion that the meeting minutes would be taken by each member on a rotating schedule, to be announced at the next meeting. Eileen R. seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Discussion of Green Works Tour:

Republic will be taking our recycling to their newly bought facility in Peabody, bought from JRM. Republic's recycling coordinator Gretchen Carey has offered to let the committee tour the facility. The group voted to go Tuesday September 20th at 1PM. Councilors Piccirilli and Bays both asked and were accepted to join the tour.

MassRecycle Award:

Anya gave an update that Watertown and the superintendent had won the Mass Recycle award for outstanding municipality for our compost program initiative. There will be a award ceremony on September 22 in Bourne, MA.

Volunteer recycling enforcement: There has been some interest from residents to help with contamination enforcement of curbside recycling totes. Anya wanted to see if other members might be interested or if we could find ways to incorporate schools. There was consensus that it may make sense to have it as an option for high school community service hours. Anya would report back with more information about requirements.

Discussion of group Norms: Alex introduced the idea of group norms. She read a segment from "The Power of Team Norms." "When norms that support equitable participation come alive, people start to feel like they can bring their full authentic selves to their team's work. They can spend less time silently fuming and more time laughing out loud at how many reminders everyone needs to live up to the expectations for inclusive teamwork that they have set for themselves..."

...At first we may discover that our colleagues have different assumptions about how a meeting should run and what it means to function as a team. That's why it's so important to bring tacit assumptions to the surface and come to a shared understanding of what it will look like to work together effectively to help all students thrive."

from <https://www.ascd.org/el/articles/the-power-of-team-norms>

She followed up by providing examples an example list (some are from the article, some are not):

- Presume positive intentions and take responsibility for impact
- Monitor your own air time- balance listening and speaking
- Start on time, end on time
- Use "I" statements; avoid generalizing the opinion of one to the opinion of many
- Ask open, honest questions to which you do not know the answer
- Do not bias an answer to a question by delivering a preamble before asking the question
- Be present
- Ground statements in evidence

These norms are meant to give the committee a basis to communicate productively and hold each other accountable. We will revisit there and maybe all sign a contract that we agree and will uphold them.

Adjourn: 6:40 pm.

Next Meeting: October 5, 2022

Contact List of Committee Members

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