

Solid Waste and Recycling advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 5, 2022
In-Person Meeting 124 Orchard St., Watertown

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

Present: (In Person) Councilor Nicole Gardener, Alex Gardener (resident), Russ Arico, Eileen Ryan, Judy Fallows, Eileen Zubrowski, Alexandra Sommers Lahr, Anya Pforzheimer.

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

We will be rescheduling our regular meetings to second Weds of each month, same time.

Summary of Greenworks tour: Russ, Eileen Ryan, Alex Lahr, Leslie Evans and Anya attended the discussion. Plastic bags had to be removed from a lot of the materials before they could be recycled. We may need to fine people for continuing to put plastic bags in recycle bin, but we could also have volunteers checking the recycle bins. One concern was the dust that workers are exposed to, visitors noted that most workers are people of color and they were not wearing protective masks to protect them from this dust which must contain microplastics and other undesirable materials. It would be good to educate people about not putting plastic bags or tanglers (hoses, etc) into their recycling bins.

Update on bulk collection upcoming changes from Public Works sub- committee meeting :

Discussion on paying for bulk items to be picked up will be discussed by city-council before some of these can be implemented. On the Watertown DPW website, page called “donate don’t dispose” if we have ideas for what to do with unwanted items. But disposal of bulk items will be phasing in. Mattresses WILL NOT be picked up as of 11/1, this is a state law.

Notification of the new bulk item will go out to all residents.

Recycle Event: on Saturday 10/15. Recycling event 10/15 10:00AM-2:00PM

- MassSave- Dehumidifiers
- Shred-It- paper
- Helpsy-textiles
- Save that Stuff- Styrofoam
- Plastic Recycled- caps/lids

Collection of ideas for initiatives or actions:

1. Time permitting and open to community via email submissions
2. Two initiatives you would like this group to take on
3. Two initiatives you would like the City to take on

City-wide meeting to which Black Earth will present on November 29, 7:00pm just on zoom and will be recorded. Anya can give us an update on how the Black Earth program is rolling out, they are ready to add more people, we could probably have someone from BlackEarth

We'd like to be getting standing updates on BlackEarth also recycling and the bulk items.

Could we get Gretchen from Greenworks to do some presentation for us?

There's a company that makes some plastic containers that could be returnable, Tip-ins which are metal.

Could we get new local companies to use BlackEarth, that could help to reduce disposable containers for all the take-out that happens.

Nicole invites SWARC to send her any "factoids" on composting and recycling that she can share in her newsletter

If you have ideas like this, please send them in an email to Anya and Alex, so they can bring these ideas to the group for consideration.

Adjourn: 6:35 pm

Next Meeting: November 9, 2022

Contact List of Committee Members

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