

Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday March 22, 2023
Meeting 124 Orchard St., Watertown

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

Present: (In Person): Anya Pforzheimer, Leslie Evans, Alexandra Somers Lahr, Russ Arico, Judy Fallows, Eileen Zubrowski, Eileen Ryan (via zoom) guest - Laurel Schwab - senior environmental planner (via zoom)

Actions

1. Going forward, every 4th Weds (April 26, May 24) move to approve by Russ A, second by Eileen Z

2. **Approve the minutes** from February meeting - move to approve by Leslie E, second by Russ A - unanimously approved

3. **Hosmer Compost update-** from Anya and Judy
Fifth grade at Hosmer is doing well, lunch aids are able to help with keeping compost from getting contaminated with plastic, so it's going well. The plan is to add other grades so by the end of this year.

Composting update - got 1,000 new bins for the city (up to 3000, right now 2100 are in use) so can be advertised at the Farmer's Market.

4. Farmer's Market planning

a. Discuss availability for members -

b. Discuss activities and outreach/ education goals - bring demonstrations of what can be recycled and composted, materials, make a kit to bring each time to show things. Create a kit in a bin with visuals, posters, handouts, materials, and work on gathering materials as we table and get new ideas from

We also want to educate people why this is important, maybe get some visuals from Black Earth would be good for a poster / display

Pictures of things that can be recycled and where

Featured speakers in different months of table:

- Laurel Schwab, to speak on Resilient Watertown, climate plan and how the recycling and composting promotes climate resilience
- a fix-it person to show up? Bike repair? Computer repair people? Mending circle?
- Speaker about the importance of new bottle bill (speaks to why this is important - how this promotes actual recycling by providing clean feedstock for recycling, plastics and glass) (How does this impact Republic? Is that a problem?)

If we develop a kit, we can potentially then take it “on the road” to other events.

5. Discussion

a. New ideas for Outreach / programs

Fix-it planning -

- can we visit other people’s events to get an idea of how to organize such an event
- Senior Center is a possible location, HATCH?
- Keep an eye out for fix-it events we might attend

Laurel Schwab -

Resilient Watertown’s Climate and Energy Plan relates to the work of SWARC. See [Resilient Watertown](#) to find details of the plan. There’s a lot in the plan on public education and messaging around the importance of the various activities to reduce climate impacts. The city right now is using social media to get messages out, they tend to highlight a topic each month.

Questions for Laurel: Life Science companies safety concerns and Hazardous waste. These are addressed in the plan, Lexington is the site that accepts Watertown’s household hazardous waste

Also supporting resources for landlords and tenants because about 50% of residents are renters

Adjourn: 6:33

Next Meeting: April 26, 2023 at 5:30