

Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday February 15, 2023
Meeting 124 Orchard St., Watertown

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 5:42

Present: (In Person): Anya Pforzheimer, Leslie Evans, Alexandra Somers Lahr, Russ Arico, Leslie Evans, Judy Fallows, Eileen Ryan (apologies Eileen Zubrowski)

Actions

1. We want to specify a **regular monthly time** to meet, going forward. After discussion, we're going to decide at our next meeting, hopefully. Second Weds each month is preferred. Shall we meet in the summer months? What do other committees do?
2. **Approve the minutes** from December and January meetings - move to approve by Alex, second by Russ - both are unanimously approved
3. **March 25 event** - Anya handed out a flyer for distribution. Some members will see that it's posted around town. This event will be rain or shine
Rides for people to get there?
4. **School Compost update**-from Anya and Judy

Rolling out slowly, Anya went to visit in Boxborough and they pointed out that buy-in needs to be everybody in the school, all the way up to the Superintendent and they need to sign an agreement that we are invested, all staff have to sign. Ideally, it's part of their contract. Boxborough has dedicated staff to make this happen, we don't have that here.
5. **Contract update from Anya**

City just got a grant that will increase the number of Black Earth bins to 3000, and we've got a waiting list for compost, so this program is increasing steadily
Last 2 SWARC meetings were about things we want to suggest for the new contract with Republic, now contract negotiations have started. Prices and features, 3 vs 5 years - if it's 5 years city council has to approve it, for 3 year contract they don't, which might provide more flexibility. The situation on where Watertown's various waste streams are taken and by whom is changing rapidly, new options come and go depending partly on the market for recyclables among other things

6. Outreach and Education

- a. Discuss potential letter for landlords and new tenants.
- b. Policy around how to enforce or promote
- i. We have the recycling calendar, just need a system for engaging landlords

Could we write a letter to landlords? Perhaps city attorney should draft this to be sure that we've covered all the bases. Parameters - more than 4 units, larger buildings with more units, Apartments, Condos

What are our goals with a letter? What are we trying to do? This is a public service thing we would be encouraging people to do. Most people want to do the right thing if they know how and it's not too much trouble

What's the problem we want to solve? Do landlords know what is required by the town? What is required anyhow?

In multi-family dwellings that are rented, we'd like to encourage landlords to share information with their tenants. What about new construction, is there a mandate for new buildings to take this on? We would like to find this out

On the other hand, do people who live in these larger properties know how to recycle? Do they have bins? Does their facility have haulers as part of your unit that take recycling and composting?

It would be good to investigate recycling policy/mandate for apartment buildings

7. Discussion

a. New ideas for Outreach / programs

How to get the word out? EVENTS:

- Recycle event, yes, but also
- FOTS table,
- Farmer's Market table a couple of times at the summer
- Wellness fair?
- Kid activities, compost learning and recycle learning games

Next meeting let's think about activities we can do at events, bring things to share.

We could design a presentation that would be given to the Watertown Business group, reach out and find if they are interested. Ask what they already do

Adjourn: 6:34

Next Meeting: March 22, 2023 at 5:30