



CITY OF WATERTOWN

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: 08/30/2023

Location: 124 Orchard Street or virtual

Subject: Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee (SWARC) Meeting

In Attendance:

In-person

- Anya
- Meher
- Leslie
- Alex
- Judy
- Russell
- Kirsten
- Eileen Ryan

Virtual

- Joan
- Linda Scoff
- Michael Albano

Meeting Commences: 5:00 PM

Agenda Items

- Meeting Minutes
 - Assign notetaking moving forward
 - To be approved at following meeting
- Farmer's Market
 - 9/13 and 10/11 volunteers let Anya know availability: Eileen, Russell, Leslie, etc
 - Thoughts
 - Russell: successful, farmer's market crowd are receptive
 - Anya: engagement, educational, people are receptive
- Composting sign-ups
 - ~2,600 out of 3,000 sign-ups
 - People sign-up online to get delivered
 - Watertown and Cambridge are the only two to offer long-term composting municipal programs
 - Black Earth nominated Watertown for MassRecycle award
- Future Meetings
 - Monthly, skip July and December

- Agenda to be planned beforehand
- 9/20/2023; 10/18/2023; sometime in November

Repair Café/Fix-it Clinic

- Intention: fix things instead of throwing away
- Categories of fixing: technology/electronics; jewelry and clothing; soil-testing
- Hatch has limited space
 - Potentially a smaller pilot program for first time
 - In spring/summer could do a bicycle one?
 - At DPW?
 - Inspiration from Bikes not Bombs
 - Overhand over assisted living area entrance? Need to negotiate for this space
- Date
 - Weekday? Veterans Day?
 - Kirsten to check Hatch availability on 11/10, 11/16, 11/17, and 12/1 from 4-8pm and follow-up with Anya
- 6-10 fixers needed
 - Hatch has some volunteers that can help
 - SWARC to find additional fixers to help
- Repair length time
 - Kirsten: an obstacle to overcome
 - Need over things for people to do while object is getting fixed
 - Sustainable actions
 - Book mobile
 - Coupons given out at fix-it clinic for local businesses, and people go out and support them
 - Or need people to leave and come back once object is fixed
- Products to be fixed
 - Limit to ~6 products
 - Potentially: blender, handmixer, vacuum, fan, clock, lamp, toaster, paper shredder, sewing machine
 - Limit objects we cannot fix
 - Microwave
- Additional help to be given
 - Informational pamphlets on common ways an item might be broken and how to fix
 - Ordering replacement parts
- Visible mending/darning
 - Form of slow fashion
 - Advertising the fact that you're repairing and re-wearing opposed to buying new
- Publicization
 - Leslie to make a poster once details are finalized
 - Flyers
 - Bookmobile events
 - Library
 - Senior center
 - DPW
 - Library website
- Sign-ups
 - Online sign-ups through library website

- Important to stagger when people come in
- Volunteer community builder
 - Jobs: ensuring fixers are getting water, bathroom breaks, snacks/dinner
- Snacks/dinner
 - Hatch has food restrictions
 - Watertown Assisted Living might have area, need to reach out

SWARC deliverables

- Reach out to Anya with availability to volunteer at Farmers Market
- Find fixers who would be interested in helping at Repair Café
- Think about which products we want to limit the repairs to at Repair Café

Anya deliverables:

- Send out QR code for Black Earth compost sign-ups to the group

Kirsten deliverables:

- Follow-up Hatch date availability with Anya for Repair Café
- To check on food restrictions of Hatch

Leslie deliverables:

- Poster and other publication materials for Repair Café

Alex deliverables:

- Follow up with Watertown Assisted Living to try to use their area for snacks/dinner for Repair Café

Meetings Ends: 6:00 PM