



CITY OF WATERTOWN
SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: 10/25/2023

Location: 124 Orchard Street or virtual

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

In Attendance:

In-person

- Anya
- Leslie
- Alex
- Judy
- Russ
- Meher
- Eileen Z

Virtual

- Michael Albano

Meeting Commences: 5:05 PM

- I. Welcome and introduction of members and visitors
- II. Actions
 - a. Approve the minutes from September, 2023 Meeting

- b. Russ moved to approve, Alex seconded
- III. Update on Hatch Repair Event Planning
- a. Discussed Repair Cafe to be held at HATCH on Nov. 25 from 1-pm
 - b. None of the committee members will be in town that day to participate and we are waiting to hear from them about publicizing the event.
- IV. DPW Costume Swap and Clothing Drive
- a. Anya reminded people of the Costume swap and textile Recycling even that will be held on Oct. at the DPW from 5-8pm
 - b. Any members that are free and want to join should feel free
 - c. Anya will be there and running it
- V. Discussion of what is the purpose and intent of this committee
- a. Alex posed the questions of “what should be the purpose of our group? Should we expand the group? What do people want to accomplish?”

Level of commitment that current members said they can commit:

- Small amounts of time for a meeting roughly every month (all)
- Russ is involved in many other committees and cannot take on leadership position
- Attending a couple events a year (Russ)
 - Farmer’s market-for a portion of the time
 - Recycle events-for a portion of the event
 - Committee did not say they wanted to have a requirement for volunteering time for events
- Helping with outreach through distributing fliers for upcoming events (Eileen Z)
- Can bring updates from their own other committees or communities (Russ, Eileen R, Leslie, Judy)
 - Beyond Plastics
 - School gardens
 - Council on aging
- No one mentioned having commitment level to do outside research for advising DPW on policy/program changes
 - Eileen Z noted she does not have time for large amount of time for meetings
 - b. There was a note that some committee members were disappointed they didn’t have more input on the hauling contract. Anya mentioned we would have needed

many more meetings to really delve into the plan. This want did not line up with the commitment levels that were expressed.

- Alex likes people bringing relevant events and other networking opportunities to the committee's attention

Members "Wants" for the committee as a concept

- Help get recycling into apartment buildings
- Leslie said that she wants to be able to bring up issues she sees in the community to the DPW liaison
 - Community needs to be more enforcement of plastic bag ban
 - Do not know if the enforcement should come from the committee
- Want to be kept informed of changes or events that are happening, from DPW liaison.
 - How is the compost program going
 - When are recycle events coming up
 - Are there other events of note
 - Any upcoming new programs
- Anya would like to have regularly scheduled recycling events that people could count on with which the committee could help out at.

Next meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 9, 2024 (since moved to Jan 31, 2024).

Meeting ended at 6:02PM