

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Minutes

Tuesday, February 4, 2020 - 7:30 pm Small Conference Room at Town Hall

Members Present: Linda Davis, Alan Robinson, Chris Polloni, Ruth Brazier, Marc Finneran, and Amy Roth
Members Absent: Zach Ellis
Public Attendees: Suzanne Thomas, LWV, Amy Collins, David Mark Welch, Bette Hecox-Lea

1. Call to Order. Linda called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
2. Minutes. Ruth requested clarification re: contract negotiations. With change, Alan moved to approve and Chris seconded. Minutes from the January meeting approved with corrections.
3. Public Comment. General support for and interest in committee efforts shared along with personal interests.
4. Updates and Announcements
 - a. MassDEP SWAC Meeting on Jan 23, 2020. Amy called in for first half of meeting. Discussion of Waste Ban enforcement increasing. Establishing a Reduce & Reuse (R&R) working group that will meet monthly beginning in March for 6 to 9 months at various locations. Focus is developing a “reuse” culture across the state through more education on options. Various priorities (textiles, furniture, durable HH, building materials, single-use food packaging, etc.) may be addressed by sub-groups. All are welcome. Contact: erin.victor@mass.gov.
 - b. Repair Session in Woods Hole – Ruth attended. Discussed adding upcoming repair session info to TT articles each month.
 - c. Waste in the Schools - Amy met with Superintendent Lori Durr, Andrea Burns (Food Service Manager), Patrick Murphy (Director of Finance), and Don Drew (Head Custodian, by telephone) on 1/22 regarding improving recycling, minimizing waste, and introducing composting in the schools. School kids are already making great strides and the impact of the initial bottle ban has been seen in decreased recyclables at the schools (kids are using refillable bottles instead).
 - o Will draft letter home with Lori encouraging waste minimization.
 - o Amy to meet with Principals and Lori on 2/12 and will prepare a resource of informational material prior to that meeting.
 - o Discussed potentially encouraging recycling projects through the Science Fair -potentially with a local business offering a prize.
 - d. Someone from the Commodores organization reached out and wants to make those events waste free – we can provide information/assistance.
 - e. Discussed getting on Selectmen’s Agenda for March to keep in front of them.
 - f. Next Selectboard meeting will be March 8.
5. Food Waste and Composting
 - a. Mary Ryther Bunker is operating at her current facility and seeking community input on how to expand composting in Falmouth. She is holding two meetings to inform stakeholders and seek input from the community. Meetings are 2/12 at 7pm and 2/14 at noon, both at Gus Canty (people can pick which one to attend).
 - b. Discussed how to support Mary. Marc moved and Amy seconded that SWAC will support Mary in her efforts to expand composting. All are in favor. Alan will reach out to Mary about articles in Enterprise.
 - c. Interest in asking Kari about availability of composting bins for the public.
6. Town/Republic Websites
 - a. Linda, Ruth, and Alan went through the existing website and generated new updating and clarification edits. Chris Macera sent a 3-page summary and video that seemed good. Discussion of whether to generate new content or use existing material from Republic and/or MADEP. Alan will email out to the committee prior to the next meeting so we can discuss and decide.
 - b. Interim meeting set for 2/18 to discuss website further.

7. Informational Material for Town Special Event Planners

- a. Waste Management at Special Events - Town will be requiring applicants for Town events to include a waste management plan. Alan requested a draft of the new permit application doc to review.
- b. Organizers of sporting events (e.g., road races) had an initial meeting and plan to meet again to discuss waste reduction.
- c. Follow up with a letter to Peter Johnson-Staub to keep momentum.

8. Articles on Town Meeting Warrant

- a. Two petition articles concerning solid waste reduction will be voted on at Spring Town Meeting. Alan will invite both petitioners to attend the March SWAC meeting.
 - o Nip Ban – Ron Klattenberg (of FLRT), Petitioner
 - o Plastic Water Bottles – Cristine Kircun, PetitionerAlan attended a hearing in Boston on HB2881 to make alcoholic miniatures a “beverage” in the Commonwealth and spoke in favor, but with an increased deposit in the future. .
- b. Job Posting for SW staffperson is being reviewed by Personnel – July 1 is earliest start date.
- c. Recycling Bylaw – has been drafted and includes a 64-page attachment on enforcement. Linda will email so that all can review by the next meeting and compile comments.

9. Continuing Trash Surveys

- a. Alan Updates – 10 surveys done, approximately 30 houses per survey. Results are fairly consistent. Approximately 64% of people are recycling perfectly. Major contaminants continue to be plastic bags (19%). Want to do more surveys and then publish data.

10. Media Coverage

- a. April 22 is Earth Day (50th Anniversary). Want to focus on some activities for the Town.
- b. Bourne Recycling Committee is sponsoring films on environmental topics in the coming months: February = Bag It, March = Rising Tides. Linda will see if we can use their films to show in Falmouth.
- c. Talking Trash – all building to Earth Day:
 - o February – Composting (Amy, Alan)
 - o March – Reuse and Waste Minimization (Ruth)
 - o April – Earth Day – Don’t Give Up on Recycling, Survey Results (Alan)
- d. Signage – Sandwich Boards are currently in Town Hall and main street Library (the rest are stored in the Engineering Office). Linda will seek permission to also place at Libraries. Chris will tackle getting permission from Churches.
- e. TV Program – Linda and Marc are members at FCTV. Will work with Zach on program.
- f. Barnstable County Meeting 1/15/20 from 12 to 3pm re: Solid Waste Master Plan. Kari Parcel to discuss grants.

5. Adjourn. Chris moved to adjourn. Alan seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.