

DRAFT MINUTES, Norwich Solid Waste Committee, 2/10/2022

The Solid Waste Committee met via Zoom for its regular monthly meeting at 7 pm Thursday, February 10, 2022. These minutes are submitted (inadvertently two days late, with apology) by Jack Cushman, chair.

Members Andy Scherer, Jack Cushman, and Lily Terry constituted a quorum. Bonnie Blake was absent. Carolyn Frye attended as a member of the public. Claudette Brochu attended representing the Selectboard.

The committee operates by consensus and there were no recorded votes.

Minutes were approved and the agenda was finalized, both by consensus.

The committee discussed promotional plans for publicizing a presentation at 6:30 on Feb. 24 by Ham Gillett cosponsored with the Norwich Public Library. Details are on the Library's web site. Notices have been published on the Norwich listserv. Among other steps Brochu suggested using the town's sandwich-board sign to publicize the event. Cushman will post to the Upper Valley listserv. Cushman will prepare simple signs or flyers for the transfer station. Other social media and school bulletins may be employed as well.

Scherer said the committee has been invited to tour the materials recovery facility in Rutland and we will arrange a date.

Scherer said he would contact the new town manager, named in February, to establish that review of the Casella contract with the town is on his spring list. The contract was renewed for one year in 2021 and the committee should devote a meeting to its review.

Frye introduced the committee to the smart phone app called "Better Bin" and said she has met with the founder of the company that produced and maintains the app. Committee members will see if it makes sense for Norwich to adopt it. The app helps consumers know what to do with individual items of waste. There is an annual fee paid by each town that uses the app, which is free to consumers. No decision was made but the committee views the idea as potentially useful and will follow up.

The committee discussed next steps in hopes of updating the town's transfer station (solid waste) Web page and making an associated Web site available with helpful information for the public. Our models are the Energy Committee, the Conservation Commission, and the Trails Committee. We have talked to members who are experienced in those committee's approaches. For now, we believe [Weebly.com](https://www.weebly.com) is the most appropriate Web application and hosting service, as it can be used for free on an experimental basis, adopted for free if it meets our requirements, and is relatively easy to use. Other approaches are available but tend to be somewhat more expensive and complicated. Cushman said he has been experimenting on his own with Weebly and will demonstrate soon for other committee members how this might work. We need to work out the right approach for linking a committee Web page to the town's official Web pages — probably by inserting a link to a committee site on either the existing Solid Waste Committee sub-page (where our agendas and minutes are currently posted) or the existing Transfer Station sub-page (where hours, rates, and contact information are posted but which is somewhat out of date). We are optimistic that we can improve the flow of information with this approach.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8 pm.

