

Draft minutes, Norwich Solid Waste Committee, March 10, 2022 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

Present: Jack Cushman, Andy Scherer, Bonnie Blake, Lily Terry as committee members; Linda Cook at member of public via Zoom phone; Carolyn Frye as member of public by Zoom video.

Committee operated by consensus; Andy ran the meeting.

Committee by consensus approved previous month's minutes.

Andy suggested altering the agenda order but no new agenda items were added.

All agreed.

Public comments invited, but there were no initial comments. All welcome to interrupt during course of meeting.

Committee discussed terms of members and vacancies, and possibility of adding members or seeking additional committee seats from Selectboard.

Cushman is starting second year of two year term; Scherer is starting second year of three year term; Blake is in second year of two year term; Terry is seeking extension for another year of her one year term. Alex Thorngren served one year of his two year term then resigned, so we have one vacancy to be filled.

Linda Cook has filed an application to fill a vacancy. We have had at least one other expression of interest.

After discussion, the group agreed to ask Selectboard to expand membership to seven. If approved that would mean four people would be needed for a quorum, which members considered feasible. At the same time any three members could work together without constituting a quorum or requiring public notice, which could facilitate our task of improving the Web site, as well as other minor or educational actions or routine consultations with town managers and officials.

Scherer is to communicate this to SB chair Roger Arnold.

Next: update on textile recycling. Email said they are ready to begin service at transfer station. They now have staff to run the contract. Town staff would like to hold off until May to work out details of bin placement etc.

Next: update on Ham Gillett presentation with library. More than 30 attended and there is a video recorded by the library. We should try to post the video on our new Web site, still under development.

Next: update on renewal of Casella contract for transfer station. Contract is up for renewal in April. Scherer suggested special meeting to review it. Meeting will probably be on Wednesday March 15 via Zoom. Short meeting.

Next: Finances. We intend to meet with new finance director to review cash flows in and out at transfer station.

Next: education efforts. Broad discussion of who should do what in terms of pushing out literature, brochures, stickers etc. List of recycling products and where they can go. Figure out signage. For example we printed publicity signs for library event. Jack continues to work on stickers. Bonnie and Lily both said they would work on web and publication designs. Linda expressed willingness to work with Paul at transfer station to design better signage. She also said a label maker would be useful for the book shed.

Next: Web page.

Jack reported on progress toward designing and publishing a draft web site using the Weebly service because it is free and handles all basic needs with simple templates. Jack and Lily have practiced editing content and have discussed ideas for types of info it should contain. We have reserved a simple and informative Web address (URL) and it is functioning. We are not including the URL, login and password information, and other details in these minutes because the Web content is still in draft and its publication has not been approved by the Selectboard, so this is just a draft work in progress while we learn the techniques. Jack demonstrated the site and gave committee members and the public a peek at how it is looking, so that other ideas could be contributed and absorbed. We intend to disable comments and not to offer any email function for sending material to us via the Web page, as we're told this is not a good way to have public comment to a town committee. We will be incorporating much material from the town committee web page and from the transfer station web page as well as from regional entities. We expect to use a "blog" on the Web page to publish short bits of news.

Lily generated a list of additional functions which we may incorporate, including RSS subscription function so that interested parties may be readily informed whenever new material is posted. There is potential to sell transfer station stickers, permits, cards etc. but this would require town management permission, Selectboard review, and upgraded Weebly paid account, so no such action at this time. However it might be useful to post the forms for purchasing permits etc. so that people could download, print out and write a check for stickers, speeding up the purchase process at the transfer station office shed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12

Submitted by Jack Cushman