

DRAFT MINUTES, Norwich Solid Waste Committee
Regular meeting, April 14, 2022

The committee met via Zoom and telephone connection (no physical meeting) at 7 pm.

In attendance were Jack Cushman, Andy Scherer, Bonnie Blake and Linda Cook, constituting a quorum. The committee operates by consensus and no roll call votes were taken.

The draft agenda was approved by consensus with allowance for additional topics including updates on old business. Andy recommended putting Green Up Day on the agenda. Jack said Linda also has new suggestions.

Draft minutes of the March meeting were approved by consensus.

Cushman took notes and updated from the Zoom video, so these minutes, by consensus, comprise a "to-do" list for the committee in weeks ahead.

The committee agreed to reach out to transfer station staff and coordinate individual or collective role for the day, which falls on May 7.

Committee welcomed Linda Cook as a committee members.

The group decided to defer for now discussion of growing the committee from 5 to 7 members in the future. We know of no additional person interested in joining the committee.

The resulting term lengths of our members now stand at:

Jack Cushman, chair, in second year of two year term.
Andy Scherer, vice chair, in second year of three year term.
Bonnie Blake, has one year to go on a two year term.
Lily Terry is serving out a one year term, possibly to be extended?
Linda Cook will begin a three year term now.

Minutes will reflect this, and we will call Selectboard attention to it.

Linda and Bonnie are to continue to work on adjusting signs at the transfer station. Goals are to make clearer what goes where, and to make the signs "positive" instead of "negative"

Scherer and others have assembled a listing of allowed and forbidden materials and other waste stream handling instructions, he can share the list of what Norwich actually accepts at the transfer station now.

Signs, web page and printed brochure or flyer are all useful and can work together.

We still need to understand the sticker price for the windshield permits and the landfill per-bag charge. When will these prices be adjusted? July 1 or before? When does SB decide on these prices for the coming year.

Jack Cushman will ask Claudette Brochu what the new fee schedule at the transfer station will be, when it will be decided, and update the info on web sites.

Jack Cushman suggested that we gather in person for a few hours, giving notice of a special meeting, not over Zoom, to sit down and build out our committee web site using Weebly. We reached consensus to do this. Cushman will poll members and find a time perhaps in the next two or three weeks.

We have four "product lines" — the Web site, signs, stickers for home use on recycling containers, and a brochure or pamphlet. We should be putting our messages on all four formats.

Bonnie and Lily have drafted ideas for stickers, and will circulate them to committee members.

Andy is circulating the list of what can and cannot be handled at the Norwich transfer station.

We also need to find out the method for spending small amounts of money out of existing or prospective Transfer Station budget line items.

We will present spending proposals (in small amounts) based on concrete details for (as an example) signs.

Committee continues to monitor (on hold) textile recycling arrangement at the transfer station. Andy keeping tabs.

Food waste — seeking update on the services contract on food recycling costs or hauling.

Committee will try to organize (informally) support for green up day activities. Andy is following up with details. Refers us to the web site greenupvermont.org

Two other events to continue considering:

Shredding event

Composting workshop w/ Ham Gillett

We agreed to “price out” paper shredding event, consider partnership (with library?), and figure out how to sense demand for this service. Probably best not to attempt such an event in July or August, so either right away in the first two weeks of June, and if not we could try for September, asking for commitment of money in next FY budget. Mascoma and Sustainable Woodstock both have events, as does the Lebanon Coop from time to time. The Library is another possible partner. Linda Cook offered to look into other events and see when they are scheduled.

The question is whether a shredding event is too expensive for us to be the lead agent for the event, or whether a partnership is better.

Jack will ask Claudette about targeting this in the current or the next fiscal year.

As for a composting workshop: Ham Gillett of UVSWMMD is willing and available. Jack said an in person outdoors event would be best. Since last frost date is May 15, real garden and vegetable composting gets under way in June. The community garden space near the Farmers Market could accommodate it, or perhaps the commuter parking lot at the recreation field, off Turnpike Road. Andy will follow up with Ham G.

Minutes prepared by Jack Cushman from Zoom recording (delayed by holiday related unavailability).

