

DRAFT MINUTES, Norwich Solid Waste Committee, 9/8/22

The committee met from 7 to 8:10 pm on Sept. 8, 2022 on Zoom. Jack Cushman, Andy Scherer and Linda Cook participated. No members of the public attended. All decisions were by consensus.

The draft agenda was re-ordered and approved.

The committee reviewed and approved all outstanding draft minutes from all previous meetings in June, July and August.

The committee discussed the correct approach to ask the town for funds in the current fiscal year to pay for two projects.

One is the Better Bin smart-phone scanning app that would allow residents to easily sort household recyclables at home in order to clean up the recycling waste streams, improving the value received by the town from recyclers who ultimately receive the materials from the transfer station. Andy is pinning down the cost estimate from the app company, which we believe would be around \$1500 - \$2000 for an annual license. There is no charge for residents using the app on their phones.

The other is funding for pamphlets and signs that are nearly ready for printing. Jack is trying to get better cost estimates for these via Doug Lufkin who volunteered his time to produce graphics for reproduction.

The committee decided to present these cost estimates in a correspondence to the SB to be submitted at its meeting on September 28. A committee budget for the next fiscal year should be developed during the ongoing budget cycle. Cushman said he would give the SB Chair and the Town Manager a heads up on this plan.

The committee decided to ask the SB and TM for feedback on the letter sent by the committee to the SB at request of SB, outlining near and long term plans for the committee.

The committee decided to ask the TM for any update on any change to process and price for the transfer station contractor to handle food waste, where the committee has previously estimated considerable savings available. Has this been worked into the current contract?

The committee is awaiting word from the TM and DPW on the installation of one or more textile recycling bins serviced by a third party at no expense to the town. Pending approval of this long sought arrangement, the committee is exploring installation of these bins at Dan & Whits.

The committee reviewed its current draft of the recycling pamphlet. A two-sided, three panel pamphlet in black and white or color, printable on plain printer paper, is nearing completion. Some changes to wording, reordering of the six columns of information, revision to a map of recycling bins, and inclusion of a plastics graphic rather than a paint graphic are in final stages.

The committee reviewed all these elements and agreed to instructions for Jack to continue revising the draft pamphlet so it may be included in the SB correspondence later this month — I.e. working on the draft for one more week.

The committee adjourned at 8:10 pm.