

The Solid Waste Committee held a special meeting on Thursday, April 13 at 7 p.m via Zoom.

The main purpose of the meeting was to arrange handoff of committee materials and minutes as Jack Cushman, whose term is expiring, steps down as chairman and as a member. From now on Cushman will support the committee's work as a volunteer member of the public, not as a member of the committee.

The meeting quorum comprised Jack Cushman, Andy Scherer and Linda Cooke.

The committee approved the draft minutes of last month's meeting. We also reviewed a full collection of all draft minutes posted since September, ensuring that all our copies of past minutes are properly approved. (In addition we reviewed all the agendas previously posted for our past meetings, and we reviewed the several instances in which meetings were scheduled but not cancelled, or instances in which we skipped a regular monthly meeting.) We did this all to make sure that our work has been properly recorded and can be passed along to future members to help bring them up to speed. All our draft minutes remain published on the town web site as of now.

The committee works by consensus. In this case we voted unanimously to formally approve minutes of all meetings since September 2022 as drafted, with one exception: we corrected the date of the November 2022 meeting minutes, which erroneously said the regular meeting that month was held on November 10; the meeting was actually on November 8, which was the second Thursday of the month.

Cushman said he would provide Scherer a thumb drive record of all his committee correspondence as well as copies of drafts of its work products, such as our informational brochure and pdf's of signs being prepared for the transfer station. This is in the interest of continuity as some projects are not yet completed.

Among our pending plans is adoption of the Better Bins smart phone recycling app which the committee recommended and which would be covered by the enacted town budget for the coming fiscal year. Scherer will contact Better Bins organization to update the process.

We briefly discussed two items of new business going forward, both of which came up the day before our meeting.

Cushman said the interim town manager had just asked the committee to make sure that volunteers are doing as much of the work as possible to carry out the statewide "Green Up Vermont" event on May 6, in which residents remove litter from town roadsides and put them in special bags which DPW then collects from the side of the roads, or which are brought to the transfer station on the day of the event. The goal is to minimize workload on town employees.

Cushman recommended that, as this event is managed by a statewide organization and is not part of the formal charge to the Solid Waste Committee, the committee may want to support

volunteers but not to take a formal role. That allows citizens to proceed with this work without posting agendas, holding public Zoom calls, meeting in town spaces or writing minutes about this volunteer activity which is already coordinated by a statewide team. Cushman said that as a member of the public in a voluntary capacity he would organize this year's efforts. Cushman has been in touch with the Town Clerk's office and was told they no longer play a role in this event and that they have already delivered the special bags to the transfer station. Cushman will obtain and prepare the maps to coordinate the pickup routes, will use the Green Up app, and will use the Norwich listserv to communicate with townwide volunteers whose work is deeply appreciated. The project will be completed before the next regular meeting of the Solid Waste Committee. The committee agreed by consensus.

Secondly, the town manager's office has informed Cushman that town committees will be provided a new method of hookup to town Zoom accounts, which is meant to simplify committee use of Zoom or hybrid public meetings. Scherer will talk to the town manager's office about this new arrangement. The committee agreed to this by consensus.