

Solid Waste Committee Draft Minutes for 11/9/23

Attendance: Andy Scherer, Jordan Mueller, Bram Litvinoff, Lily Terry, Linda Cook, and Caroline Frye

Meeting began at 5:38

September 14th minutes were approved by consensus

Muellar and Terry reported on their progress addressing the numerous outdated and broken links on the town's transfer station page. They shared a document they created prioritizing links that need addressing. The committee agreed that it's best for the pair to continue working through the list. Muellar was also successful in getting the new Betterbin QR code uploaded to the Solid Waste Committee's home page.

Scherer reported that he was invited to a conversation with Sustainable Hanover about collaborating on a Styrofoam recycling project. Styrofoam is collected periodically in the Upper Valley (most recently on Oct 28th in Lebanon) and sent to a densifier in Gilford, NH. The volume of Styrofoam collected was enough to fill two 24' box trucks. Hanover has begun organizing the effort and plans to host an event in Jan or Feb in order to catch the post-holiday influx of Styrofoam. The committee agreed that this would be a worthwhile endeavor and would help with volunteering. Scherer also reported having been contacted by Ham Gillett of the GUVSWMD regarding a possible collaboration among Upper Valley towns in VT with a similar goal as Hanover's. Again, the committee agreed that Norwich should do its part in collaborating with other towns to hold an event in VT in the future.

Scherer reported that the Betterbin app is working but doesn't know the exact numbers of users. Litvinoff printed flyers and Cook distributed them at the transfer station to residents. Cook will inquire with the town office to see if the committee can use town copying to print more flyers to advertise the project further. Scherer also reported that he and a member of Sustainable Hanover have been working on a joint press release to further advertise the Betterbin app. The group brainstormed other locations where it could be advertised including Day Break, About Norwich and the Norwich Times. Frye also suggested a sandwich board with the QR code printed on it.

November 15th is "America Recycles Day". Terry and Scherer will post a couple reminders to the listserv about it and can mention the use of the Betterbin app as a way to improve recycling. The group also discussed contacting the science teacher at Marion Cross to see how the kids can be engaged with recycling. Terry offered to put together a short presentation.

Litvinoff has been in touch with the DPW director (Kaufman) regarding approval for improved signage at the transfer station. Kaufman had some recommendations so the next step is to contact the designer to make the changes and have a sign printed up.

The group also discussed whether the fees the town is collecting for the Construction and Demolition (C&D) bin at the transfer station were covering costs. However, at this point the committee does not have the detailed information associated with C&D costs to further investigate. It was also noted that Lebanon's prices will be going up in the next year so likely Norwich's will go up too. Generally speaking, the town sees the C&D dumpster as an option available to residents who are unable to go to Hartford and Lebanon for disposal and that the transfer station does its best to strike a balance between affordability and covering the costs for this. The selectboard has not asked the committee to explore this

in detail and several SWC members expressed interest in completing current projects before taking on financial exploration.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:55