

SWC Draft Minutes for Thursday 9/12/24

Attendance: Andy Scherer, Jordan Mueller, Loretta Pearson

Meeting began at 5:41pm

-Minutes from last meeting were approved

-This was the first SWC meeting with new member, Lory Pearson. We reviewed quorum and OML. A discussion was had about changing committee roles (Chair, Vice Chair) and rotating minutes taker. Decision making has historically been made by consensus on the Solid Waste Committee. Given there were two members not in attendance at this meeting, those who were there chose to wait until a future meeting to decide roles and decision-making style.

-The Selectboard had asked that Norwich committees review their charges. The members in attendance reviewed the charge and felt it accurately reflected the work the committee does. The group also updated the committee members and their respective term lengths

Name	Length of term	Years remaining in term	Date of Term end
Andy Scherer (Chair)	3 years	3	April 2027
Linda Cook (Vice Chair)	3 years	1	April 2025
Lory Pearson	3 years	3	April 2027
Jordan Mueller	3 years	2	April 2026
Bram Litvinoff	2 years	1	April 2025

-Scherer reported that the Betterbin recycling app license was renewed for another year. A question was raised as to how to quantifiably track its effects on recycling habits of transfer station users. One thought was to use the hauling, volume, tonnage, fees, etc. data recorded by the finance and town manager's offices. The idea would be to check for penalties or additional fees applied to contaminated loads sent from the transfer station. Over time, one would expect fewer penalized loads would be leaving from the transfer station as users improved their recycling habits. Additionally, Scherer ask that someone take this on as a project. That person would be responsible for posting on the listserv and encouraging residents to use the app. The group will follow up at their next meeting.

-Scherer expressed interest in getting signs made for the TS asap. Despite attempts, there has not been an approved design, material or location for the signs at the TS. An initial concept was made for the SWC but the committee hasn't been able to connect with the designer for any changes or updates. Originally, it was thought that metal signs would be the best choice for displaying information. However, as they increase in size, they dramatically go up in cost. Another thought was that the committee could print larger waterproof signs and display them in an A-frame sign board. TS attendants would have to approve the placement and size so that it wouldn't interfere with foot traffic around the collection hoppers.

-For many weeks of the summer, the yard waste, leaf, and small brush collection site at the TS has been closed. This was because invasives had made their way into the collection site so the DPW director chose to close the collection area. Several in-town residents have contacted the SWC Chair or cc'd him in their correspondence with the DPW director. Many expressed the need for this type of collection, especially for those living in town, and hoped for a return of the service to the TS. Scherer contacted the outreach coordinator for the GUVSWMD, Ham Gillet for suggestions on how to move forward. No resolution has been reached yet.

-Mueller gave an update on the transfer station page of the town's website. There is a plan in place to remove outdated information and broken links. Once that is completed, updated rates and information will be added. After that, the committee would like to add useful links and information residents can use to improve recycling habits and reduce the amount of trash going to the landfill.

-Since there was another meeting using the room immediately after the SWC meeting, there wasn't enough time to cover all agenda items. The following topics were postponed: 1) reviewing the transfer station fee recommendation 2) reimbursement protocol 3) Hartford Styrofoam collection recap 4) writing an article for the Norwich times

-Meeting adjourn at 6:48pm