

Solid Waste Committee Draft Minutes for Thursday, May 8, 2025

Attendance: Andy Scherer (AS), Jordan Mueller (JM), Lory Pearson (LP)

Meeting began at 5:35 pm

Adopt/Add/Change Items:

Approve meeting minutes from 4/10/2025. Minutes were approved. They will be posted as the final version from the last meeting.

NSW Organization: Roles will remain unchanged: Andy, Chair; Jordan, Vice-Chair; Lory, Secretary

Green Up Day Review. What worked well, what needs attention for next year?

- Andy completed a survey for the organization that sponsors the event each year
 - Last year: 112 volunteers, 62 miles, 160 bags, 27 bags returned to TS
 - This year: 145 volunteers, 55 miles, 150 bags, 40 bags returned to TS
- **Plans for next year**
 - Better specify volunteers' routes on sign-up sheet
 - Communicate to volunteers that they can separate out recyclables from their Green Up bags if they would like
 - Make or ask Green up Day organization for bigger posters;
 - Set up NWC "tent" in front of dumpster for Green Up Day at TS; place large Green Up Day sign in front of dumpster to direct residents where full green up bags should be placed

Plowshare/swap shed

- Need to post better information on what can be left there
- Reminder of other drop-off options: Cover, Listen Center, new "Keep it Simple", donations to Honduras via Dean Siebert
- Andy talked with a Norwich resident who is interested in Plowshare disposal policy; he will invite her to the next meeting
- Jordan will post on Listserv that everyone interested in Plowshare is invited to next meeting

Plastic bag/film recycling update

- 1) Plastic recycling info in Betterbin: No follow-up
- 2) Possible bubble-wrap collection/sharing—at post office or Dan and Whit's
- 3) Listserv PR around plastic recycling; need to supply Jordan with text for listserv

Calendar of events

- Household Hazardous Waste collection—July 16 at Hartford TS
- Styrofoam recycling: Spring, Fall, Winter
- Green-Up Day – 1st Saturday in May

- Shredding – periodic (held by other organizations or companies E.g. Mascoma Bank and Coops)
- Evergreen recycling in Wilder: takes propane tanks, freon-containing appliances
- Plastic planter take-back
- Repair Fair

Purchase of signage and Uses:

- 2 “A Frames” with letters; banner for fence in front of school; perhaps signs with frames to sink into the ground like Sharon this year
- **Rotating “Did you know” tips on listserv and/or A-frame** near recyclables dumpster
 - Promote Betterbin
 - Reminder that residents can recycle paint, batteries, computers, TVs, mercury-containing lightbulbs and thermometers
 - Size limitations for recyclables dumpster
 - No black (plastic) e.g. take-out containers, milk cartons, juice boxes, ice cream boxes
 - Etc.

Adjourn: 6:45 pm