

Solid Waste Committee Draft Minutes, Thursday 11/13/25

Attendees:

Committee members: Andy Scherer, Jordan Mueller , Lory Pearson, Mara Child

Community members: Amy Stringer, Leah Romano, Jaan Laaspere, & Dave Bibeau

(1) Start meeting: 7:35 pm

(2) Minutes from 9/11/25: Accepted

(3) Ploughshares discussion (with community input)

- Brief history provided by Amy Stringer: She established the Ploughshare when she was a member of the SWC as a way of keeping usable things out of the landfill. Many people enjoy using it. Recently she talked to the Transfer Station attendants, who told her the Town was thinking of eliminating it, due to people leaving trash, food, electronics (which are specifically disallowed), products with safety issues such as helmets& baby gear, out-of-season items, and general messiness. Amy posed the question of how we can keep the Ploughshare by educating the public. Ideas included:
 - Listserv posts, such as under Jordan's "Did you know?" series. Could include cost to the Town of throwing away items that are not taken; reminder about option of posting on Facebook marketplace
 - Better signage by the Ploughshare shed, including hand-outs in protective plastic folder
 - Ask contributors to add a tag with date of donation, and keep item only for a week
 - Volunteers on site, and volunteers to drive remaining stuff to Listen etc perhaps once a week (Listen closes at 1 pm and Cover at 4 pm) (or make special arrangements with Cover, Listen, etc. in advance to pick up left-over stuff)
 - Athletic gear could be taken to "ReGear" store in WRJ or Family Place
 - Make the Ploughshare a Scout or school public service project
 - Publicize rules on the Town website
 - Cross-promote Ploughshare issues at town events, such as the Gingerbread Festival
 - People leaving items or anyone seeing nice items at the Ploughshares could post it on the listserv telling people to go pick it up
 - ACTION ITEMS
 - Andy will talk with DPW about staff preferences; ask if items tagged with date could be left for one week before tossing (say at 4 pm on Saturdays)
 - Andy will get information from Thetford about its "Swap Shop"

- Jordan will add items on Ploughshare rules to his "Did you know" Listserv series (also could be called "Trash Talk or "Lets talk trash"
- Jordan will ask public for input about Ploughshare on Listserv posts
- Amy will ask KIS if there are items it especially wants

(4) Styroform collection with Sustainable Hanover at Richmond School on Jan. 31stth (snow date Feb. 7th)

- The Norwich SWC would like to promote the event and volunteer at it.
- The event (with bagging and trucking to a distant densifier facility) is expensive; Hanover solicits donations from those disposing their foam. : Casella is interested in donating dumpsters and transporting foam to processing facility
- The ultimate goal is a local densifier facility
- ACTION ITEM
 - Andy will let Sustainable Hanover know that Norwich will participate

(5) Christmas tree disposal options

- Our hiring a chipping company is too expensive (\$~1500)
- Town wants nothing to do with it, because of liability issues and doesn't have available staff
- Goat farmer in Thetford will take trees at bottom of their driveway
- Residents can also bring their trees to Lebanon's or Hartford's recycling facilities (Fees apply to use the centers)
- ACTION ITEMS
 - Andy will reach out to goat farmer
 - Jordan will post information on list-serv about goat farmer's offer
 - Mara will ask Asplundh if it would be willing to denote chipping services for publicity

(6) Betterbin app

- Most visits (~ 100) occurred last year on Nov. 15th "America Recycles Day"; otherwise minimal traffic
- Survey deferred
- Contract still to be signed; important to spend the \$1500 this budget year
- ACTION ITEM:
 - Andy will follow up on getting the Town Manager to sign the contract

(7) Town's alternate to GUVSWMD board: Jordan to be nominated on Nov. 19th

(8) Signage

- Andy has been borrowing an "A-Frame" sign from the District, but he will buy one asap
- Placement of signs at Transfer Station can be problematic if they get in the way of staff and those disposing of their recycling

- Possibilities are signs attached with a magnet or other means to compactor attached to dumpster

(9) Additional items for Jordan's "Did you know" series

- Will post about Ploughshares rules/guidance for what is acceptable
- At the Norwich Transfer Station, we have the ability to recycle batteries, paint, fluorescent bulbs and electronics all the time
- 3 permanent hazardous waste collection sites in VT: Burlington, Barre, Rutland

(10) Adjourn: 9:07 pm