

Solid Waste Committee Minutes, Thursday 9/10/26

Attendees: Andy Scherer, Jordan Mueller, Lory Pearson, Mara Child

- (1) Start meeting: 7:55 pm
- (2) Add/change item on Agenda: None
- (3) Minutes from 5/21/2026 and 6/11/26
 - Both have been approved, but not yet submitted to Brita.
 - Andy will submit both together with current Minutes
- (4) Requirements for labeling and submitting meeting Minutes**
 - Naming convention for Minutes files: filename [without "draft"].doc
 - Submission due date is **5 days** after meeting.
 - Any needed revisions will be discussed and incorporated into the Minutes of the next meeting. No need to resubmit original minutes.
- (5) Interest in coordinating a town-wide Give-away/Community Yard Sale/Rummage sale in Norwich in spirit of waste reduction and diversion.**
 - Our contribution would be to advertise, and to provide a map of all places in Norwich hosting at-home events on chosen day.
 - **Jordan would produce a map of participating locations/households**
 - All event hosters would be responsible for their remaining unsold/unclaimed items
 - Spring timing is preferred, as vehicle for spring cleaning. We will pick a day other than Mother's Day, Green-Up Day etc.
 - **We will revisit this in February as a meeting agenda item.**
 - **Andy will talk to other towns about map-making and 'lessons learned'**
 - **Lory will attend Hartland community yard sale (being organized by its Rec Committee) on October 17th to see how it plays out**
- (6) Status of new signage for Transfer Station**
 - Mara and Andy formed subcommittee to finalize text and design of signs; we reviewed 4 beautiful weatherproof signs ready to attach to doors of the mixed recycling bin
 - **Andy had them printed at Gnomon Copy and has been reimbursed.**
 - **Mara will visit the Transfer Station to talk to Paul Albee about attaching the signs to the mixed recycling bin; she will also check which other signs have been posted,**
 - o Sign for redeemables, noting that revenues are contributed to the Citizen's Assistance Fund
 - o Sign for pressurized containers: no propane tanks or spray paint cans (empty whipped cream cans can be put in metal bin)
 - o Signs for paint shed and C+D bin saying "See attendant" for approval
 - **As holiday season nears, another sign addressing holiday waste would be useful**
- (7) BetterBin update**
 - Andy has confirmed renewal of town subscription for 2026-2027

- Jordan presented a table of " BetterBin Usage Numbers by Town" for the Oct. 2025-Aug. 2025 period, including Norwich and Hanover # of users, # of searches, and # of new users. Key take-aways are that the # of monthly users by town is small (5-9 each month in Norwich; 12-23 each month in Hanover). Although there are new users each month, they mostly replace previous users
- Jordan prepared a survey to gather feedback on residents' perceptions of BetterBin (awareness; installation of app; amount of use; helpfulness of app if used, additional text field for opinions
- Next steps:
 - o Jordan will add text to survey explaining what BetterBin is and highlighting anonymity of survey
 - o He will also create a QR code for the survey
 - o As well, he will post the survey on the listserv, make hard copies for distribution at the Transfer Station, and create ½ page hand-outs to attach to message boards around town
 - o Andy and Mara will make a sign publicizing the survey

(8) Ploughshare

- The SWC meeting discussing the Ploughshare garnered the biggest community attendance in memory.
- Despite this interest, it is hard to move forward due to difficulty finding volunteers to manage Ploughshare contributions, increasing difficulty of moving unclaimed items to Listen and Cover.
- The SWC has no authority to close the Ploughshare.
- The topic is tabled for now.

(9) Upcoming events:

- Andy will repost notice about upcoming shredding events on listserv
- Volunteers are needed for the October 3rd styrofoam collection event

(10) Adjourned: 9:15 pm

Action items highlighted in yellow