Norwich SWC Minutes for Thursday 10.22.26

Attendance: Lory Pearson (remote), Mara Childs (remote), Jordan Mueller (in person), Andy Scherer (in person)

Minutes:

1-Start meeting:

7:57

2-Add/Change items:

None

3-Approve meeting minutes from 9/10/26:

Approved as written

4-America Recycles Day, Nov 15. How to publicly recognize:

Discussed posting for the seven days leading up to ARD. Starting Sun, 11/8 we will post to the listserv about different recycling topics each day. Topics will cover batteries, paint, electronics, mercury lamps/bulbs, appliances, household recycling, etc. Will also post link to Betterbin sign up page and America Recycles Day website. There was also a suggestion to use local media like JAM to make videos, etc and post on website but this will not likely happen in time.

5-Waste reduction and diversion activities:

-Reusable gift wrapping

Discussed the idea of having an event with local businesses Craft Studies and RePlay arts. The idea is to make something that will reduce waste during the holidays. Will try for first half of December. AS and LP to follow up.

-Library of things

The Norwich Public Library is already doing this with kitchen appliances and tools. The discussion revolved around expanding the options available for residents to borrow. Possibly including garden, lawn or basic home tools. We will approach the library first to ask if there is more they would like to do with this program. Concerns raised were: are there liability issues, physical space for storage, damaged or unreturned items. AS will share what other towns have done

-Canning/food preservation workshops

Will revisit next summer and/or fall

6-Betterbin survey results

JM sent out a survey on the listserv regarding resident awareness, usage and perceived helpfulness of the app. All data was collected anonymously and participants were able to leave comments as well. We received nearly 60 responses regarding the app. 2/3 of respondents had heard about the app. About half of the 60 had either not heard of it or didn't use it once installed. The majority of users start out using it enthusiastically, then usage drops off to occasional or no longer using it. Half of users found it moderately or very helpful. Given the

cost and relatively low numbers of active users each month, the discussion revolved around whether it made sense to continue renewing the subscription for the next fiscal year. The committee decided that most residents are overwhelmed with tech/apps and felt like we could reach more people with physical signs, flyers/handouts, active posting on the listserv and increasing events/activities. AS will speak to town manager regarding projected committee/waste reduction programing needs.

7-Messaging blast on LS about special disposal options for: appliances, batteries, paint, electronics & mercury containing lamps, bulbs and thermostats

See number 4 above in conjunction with America Recycles Day.

8-Create map of what goes where at the transfer station

Transfer station staff suggested creating a map of the site with labels indicating what each dumpster contains (Eg, scrap metal, mixed recycling, electronics, etc). Map could be arial photo or drawn. MC suggested reaching out to a local artist (but unclear if SWC can compensate). Could be printed on flyers, displayed as a poster and posted on transfer station or SWC pages on town website. The idea of a centralized map and posting area for the SWC came up. All agreed this would be helpful to be able to post.

9-Final signs for TS dumpster label

MC and AS to reconvene as a subcommittee to finish the last of the dumpster signs.

10-Adjourn

9:34

Future discussion or revisiting:
-spring/summer yard sale coordination

<u>SWC action items</u>:

MC: Contact artist

AS: Contact TM regarding budget related items; ask library if there is more they want to do with their lending program; send how other towns are operating their library of things to SWC members; contact RePlay Arts about reusable craft idea; meet with Jordan to create posts/topics for weekly messages.

LP: Will contact Craft Studies about the reusable craft idea

JM: will set up automated post for lead up to America Recycles Day