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**TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT**  
**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
22 Monument Avenue  
Swampscott, MA 01907

**Members**

Wayne Spritz, Chair  
Jonathan Gold  
Jason Hagan  
Katherine Mikk  
Stefanie Neumann  
Matthew Pelland  
Dr. Peter Sheckman, BoH  
Alix Smullin  
Emily Westhoven  
M.E. Fletcher, S.Board Liason  
Jeff Vaughan, DPH Ex-off  
Gino Cresta, DPW Ex-Off

**MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE OF MEETING: Monday March 26th, 2024**

**TIME: 5:15 PM**

**LOCATION: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, Swampscott Town Hall, 22 Monument Avenue**

**Recording will be posted on Swampscott TV**

<https://swampscottma.tv/category/solid-waste-advisory-committee/>

**Attendees:** Wayne Spritz, Emily Westhoven, Kathy Mikk, Stefanie Neumann, Matt Pelland, Jason Hagan, Peter Sheckman, Mary Ellen Fetcher; **Guests:** Jonathan Nichols and Caroline Margolis Swampscott Library

**Meeting opened** at 5:20 PM and recording to Microsoft Teams started. A recording of the meeting will be uploaded to the Town's channel for resident viewing: <https://swampscottma.tv/category/solid-waste-advisory-committee/>

**Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the minutes of the February 26, 2024 meeting was moved by Kathy, seconded by Alix; the motion carried unanimously.

**1. Resident feedback & DPW reports**

In the absence of representatives of Public Works and Public Health, no resident feedback was provided.

**2. Open Public Comment**

No public being present, there was no public comment.

**3. Upcoming Greenworks Tour:** A tour of Greenworks has been scheduled for April 9. There are 10 slots available for members of the public.

**ACTION:** Emily will post the information on Swampscott Nest and Swampscott Patch.

**4. Boat Wrap Recycling and Hazardous Waste Disposal are coming up soon.** The Hazardous Waste Disposal is again with Marblehead and is scheduled for April 27.

**ACTION:** Emily will follow up with Jeff and get this information into the newsletter.

**5. Closed recycling containers:** Recent windy days have again raised the issue of having a policy on closed recycling containers. We need to consider what a policy might look like and invite the Board of

Health to a meeting to discuss and move it forward. Kathy will look into the possibility of microgrants for this.

6. **Library Of Things** discussion Jonathan Nichols, head librarian, and Caroline Margolis, reference librarian, SPL, joined us to talk about this topic. Wayne indicated that we were interested to speak to them to see how can we partner with library, solicit donations for project expansion, or help in other ways.

Concept: Began several years ago, prompted by outages and people had no internet so library bought hotspots. Program has since expanded

Pickleball, hoses, games, puzzles, piano,

Power washer

20 internet hotspots

6 Roku devices

Has a searchable database

Swampscottlibrary.org/library-of-things/

Borrow timeline is 1-2 weeks

*ACTION:* Matt chasing micro grant for expanded library of things, could be used to expand offerings at Swampscott Library.

space could be an issue storing items not in circulation.

How to best put the money to use

Maker space a possibility? Microgrants interested in goods repair for community

Repair center? Bike repair station in parking lot? Swap shed / exchange?

Many potentially appealing items such as cookware or things that require electricity or some degree of hazard are problematic from a sanitation or liability perspective

Renovations to the library are in the Town capital plan and might provide more space for the Library of Things.

*NEXT STEPS:*

Setup tour of library of things resources

Brainstorm possibilities for donations and microgrant application

Process for vetting items

Contact information on Swampscott library website

### **Earth Fest is Saturday April 27th 10-1 (rain date May 4).**

SWAC will set up a table for it along the lines of our Farmers' Market presence. We will highlight boat wrap recycling and the new plastics bylaw. We need more recycle stickers for barrels.

Earth Day Clean Up Activity: SPUR is not interested to expand its clean ups to some additional areas so we might organize some clean up activity. (Jason's neighbor is director of SPUR.) Might there be others we could collaborate with? Little League? We would need a gathering spot, maps, and a drop off plan.

*ACTION::* Emily will be in touch with Gino about this

### **Mass Recycles Event Report**

Pre-plan for disaster recovery

AshBritt disaster recovery plan an expert service provider

Share with Climate Action committee for resilience planning. (Doug and Martha)

PFAS discussions

### **Updates on committee projects**

New Technology UBQ – Wayne met them, they take organics and have a chemical process to convert them into a product that can be mixed with virgin raw plastic

Pumpkins:

Kathy has been in touch with recreation but more of a public health issue – will stop by and talk to Jeff

Black Earth does host pumpkin events

Sam asked about using it as a fundraiser for the HS environment club

**Restaurants managing food waste (Stefanie)**

Spoke to about 14

Kitchen waste v customer waste issues

Cookie Monster sends unused food to My Brothers Table

Help is available for business and institutions from Recycling Works Massachusetts (recyclingworksma.com). Funded by the Mass DEP.

Potential projects needing help:

Styrofoam dropoff recycling opportunities- investigate opportunities to recycle the styrofoam that is collected each month in the DPW yard.

Cardboard opportunities- collection/redirection- explore how MHD transfer station operates

Also includes shredded paper.

Large rigid plastics recycling- not many options or possibilities for recycling or disposal

Is there a minimum amount threshold?

Marblehead has an open top dumpster for collecting rigid plastics.

Marblehead has a swap shop

Andrew Petty- Director of public health runs Marblehead transfer station- reference Wayne,

Ask how town handles pickup/disposal

Grant funding opportunities- investigate/explore

**Alix moved to adjourn and Wayne seconded – adjourned at 7:20pm**

*Next Meeting is on April 24th 2024 at 5:15PM*