

App'd 12/14/23 



Members

Wayne Spritz, Chair
Gino Cresta, DPW
Mary Ellen Fletcher, Select Board
Jonathan Gold
Katherine Mikk
Dr. Peter Sheckman, BoH
Alix Smullin
Jeff Vaughan, DPH
Emily Westhoven

TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

22 Monument Avenue
Swampscott, MA 01907

MEETING MINUTES

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, November 14th, 2023

TIME: 6:00 PM to 8:00PM

LOCATION: 1st Floor Conference Room, Swampscott Town Hall , 22 Monument Avenue

Attendees: Wayne Spritz (Chair), Johnny Gold, Kathy Mikk, Alix Smullin, Emily Westhoven, Mary Ellen Fletcher (SB), Jeff Vaughan (DPH)

Meeting opened at 6:04PM 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

Kathy moved to accept the minutes for the August 31st, September 27th and October 25th meetings, Alix seconded, and all meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Resident feedback & DPW reports (Jeff)

Jeff reported that a reminder needs to go out to residents that yard waste needs to be placed on the curb and cannot be placed in driveways or on private property. He also reported that 90 tires were dropped off during the tire recycling event on September 30th and approximately 900 pounds of pumpkin dropped off during the pumpkin drop-off on November 4th (both at the DPW yard on Paradise Road). There will be a hazardous waste drop-off opportunity for Swampscott residents at the Marblehead transfer station on Saturday, November 18th.

Open Public Comment

No public comment.

Data Updates

The committee briefly reviewed monthly waste and recycling numbers which in general are looking very good, meaning a reduction of both waste and recycling numbers in general.

Food and Beverage Container Bylaw: Public Feedback & Select Board final draft

Committee reviewed proposed changes to the bylaw (second draft) based on input and feedback provided during the public hearing on October 25th and the public comment period which closed on November 8th. The new bylaw will be called "Regulation of Plastic Containers in Food Establishments".

Johnny made a motion to accept the wording of the changes to the proposed bylaws as discussed during the meeting, Jeff seconded it and it was unanimously approved.

Wayne will go before the BOH on November 15th to seek approval for Section VI of the proposed bylaw: "Consumer Advisory". He will then attend the SB meeting, also on November 15th, to recommend to the SB to vote for the proposed bylaw to be included in the warrant for the 2023 Special Town Meeting. The draft-by law will also be sent to Town Counsel for final review.

Update for compost project funding for Senior Housing

Jeff will meet with the new director of the Swampscott Housing Authority, Kevin Johnson, to go over the logistics and the education for adding a composting program for seniors living at Duncan Terrace and Doherty Circle. Funding will come out of the town's RDP (Recycling Dividend Program) and will cover approx. 80 containers and liners. Composting drop-off will be at the Senior Center at the High School.

Follow up to add more town wide compost bins

There are no funds currently to purchase the new bins for public composting, however, when available, the desired additional public composting locations are recommended to be around the Fire Station/Anchor Food Pantry and on the employee-parking side of the Middle School.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Report for Select Board

Per SB request, Wayne will prepare an Annual Report summarizing the work, engagement and accomplishments of the committee over the last (financial) year. The committee brainstormed the following to be included (but not limited to) in the report:

- Development of a new bylaw to regulate plastic containers in food establishments
- MRF visit and engagement with representatives from the recycling & waste hauler
- Design, execution and analysis of a townwide public waste & recycling survey
- Introduction of boat plastic recycling
- Regular public outreach at Farmer's Market / social media outreach
- Monthly waste data collection and maintenance
- Mass Recycle event attendance
- Hired and managed a SWAC summer intern

Long Term Strategic Plan

Discussion about a longer-term vision and opportunities that the committee could frame for Swampscott, expanding on learnings from work to date. In this context, Johnny shared his vision and wish list (“in an ideal world”) that included:

- A drop-off center for cardboard and glass
- A baler for cardboard
- Profit sharing from cardboard recycling
- Shredded paper to be accepted in curbside recycling
- A styrofoam compactor
- Creation of a regionalization group
- 96-gallon curbside recycling cart for each household
- A RFP to receive competitive bids to select the next waste hauler and recycler
- Share profit from recycling income
- Separation of waste and recycling for the Swampscott schools
- Receive the real contamination rate from the waste hauler

Other ideas:

- Aggregated services for commercial waste and recycling (“local buying groups”)

Johnny announced that he will resign from SWAC after this meeting, but offered to stay on as a technical advisor for the committee if the committee agrees.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Next meeting is on Thursday, December 14th 2023