

App'd 1/23/2024 



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

Received by Town Clerk
February 13, 2024 3:58pm

MEETING MINUTES

DATE OF MEETING: Thursday, December 14th, 2023

TIME: 5:00 PM to 7:30PM

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

Attendees: Wayne Spritz, Johnny Gold, Kathy Mikk, Alix Smullin, Mary Ellen Fletcher , Peter Sheckman, Gino Cresta

Meeting opened at 5:10PM 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 Nov. 14 meeting was moved by Johnny, seconded by Alix; the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Resident feedback / DPW / DPH reports (Jeff)

Jeff reports that a small section Hillside Ave cycling was missed. Wayne will follow up to see if that is a recurring issue

The Select Board approved an increase in the mattress fees went to \$35/mattress. The Town is not making money on this; the increase was to cover cost initially covered by grant money.

Discussion: North Shore Compost Essex Tech just got a digester to make methane and heat the building – any opportunities for this kind of process in town? Where would you put the compost?

Open Public Comment

No public comment.

Data Updates

Reviewed charts. Composting numbers are just an estimate, not weighed. Can we indicate the cost savings for reduction in solid waste? \$311,000 saved over last year. What accounts for this trend and how can it continue? Future item: Support any new Building permitting that calls for private solid waste disposal to include recycling/composting. We should do a survey of existing private contracts to understand what they provide. One factor in the reduction of solid waste by weight is that packaging doesn't weigh as much.

Food and Beverage Container Bylaw

Follow up to Food and Beverage Bylaw passage: Wayne heard from Allan Gordon in Newton – they passed a bylaw in October. Enforcement. Take out from neighboring cities/towns – where put black plastic from those takeouts. We need to develop a cheat sheet for the food establishments so that they can quickly see what is allowed and what is not. We can keep a running FAQ on website. Wayne will sk Emily about this. Reach out to Marblehead and Salem about possibly following suit.

Follow up to add more town wide compost bins

Composting locations: Exploring one in Middle School parking lot; asked for one off of Burrill/old police station or fire station. Is there any way that the town could provide – a townwide pickup as a town service? Is there room at the new elementary school for a composting site? What would it cost if everyone in town signed up/what is the lowest possible rate?

ACTION: (1) Wayne will invite Black Earth to next meeting. (2) Johnny will find out where Republic offers composting.

NEW BUSINESS

Recycling/Waste Events Planning Calendar

- Metal and recycling:
 - i. We will skip Jan and Feb; notice for December 30 pick up to include reminder that next pick up will be march.
 - ii. November Styrofoam full (30 yards), metal?? There was discussion about whether it would be cost effective to compact the Styrofoam but the numbers don't work: how much is charge for Styrofoam dumpster (\$200?) – no way covers cost – 25lb bricks – 23 cents per pound.
- Earth Day Monday, April 22, 2024
- Farmer's Market
 - i. Shredding days
 - ii. Simple Recycling Days
- Town Yard Sale Days
- Beach clean ups
- Swap Day
- Boat wrap
- Shred your records/drop off spot for shredded paper (get Republic to take it)
- Pumpkin dropoff/use for animal feed"/pumpkin launch"/Kathy will investigate.
- Christmas trees mulching – "Mulchfest"/Kathy will investigate
- Tire dropoff

2. Regional Roundtable – see under 5 year goals

3. Longterm Strategic Plan (list from last minutes)

- I. Next Contract/Not immediate
 - Competitive Bids
 - Get contamination rate
 - Share profit from cardboard recycling
 - Shredded paper recycling
- II. Regionalization Group/Top priority/Wayne, Peter, Alix
 - MHD, Bev, Salem, Lynn
 - See Wayne's draft statement
 - Invite Claire Galkowski (*should this be a regular meeting or subcommittee – before the end of January?*)
- III. Extra/Improved Service
 - 96-gallon recycle cart provided by town
 - Stryofoam compactor
 - Dropoff center
 - Cardboard/baler - Johnny talk to Max, Gino – draft concept
 - glass ????
 - Shredded paper/Shredding day - Johnny
 - Dropoff Center
 - Composting – Johnny will find out where Republic composts
 - Connect back to Survey - Kathy
- IV. Public Education
- V. Group purchasing of solid waste services by entities that do not use town services
 - Johnny and Wayne to have a call with Greg Cooper

Alix moved to adjourn and Kathy seconded – adjourned at 7:30pm