

Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of Special Meeting
Video Conference
July 21, 2020

Present: Julie Sherman, Pene Williams, Susan Spak, Rita Kornblum, Ted Busky, Shelby Fuerst, Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Chairperson Sherman.

The June 30, 2020 meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Kornblum/Busky.

Walton reported that the plastic bag ordinance went back in effect July 14, 2020. Human Services asked if they could continue using plastic grocery bags for their monthly food distribution while COVID-19 is an issue. Walton asked for SWAC input of ideas. Members did not want to see a town department using plastic bags after all their work to pass the ordinance. They brainstormed some ideas, which Walton will take back to Humans Services and continue to work with them on a solution that avoids plastic bags.

Members were referred to the Beyond Plastics website, www.beyondplastics.org, where they can get information about the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act, federal senate bill 3263 and house bill 5845. Members were encouraged to check out the website as it addresses the concerns about plastics that have been raised during meetings. The committee reviewed a letter to businesses asking them to bring back their refillable/reusable options. It was suggested that the committee hold off sending a letter of this kind to businesses. In the meantime, Walton was directed to send the letter to them for their comments.

The committee read a letter from resident, Nancy Tomastik, asking SWAC to the prohibit circulars, ads, and other materials from being tossed by passing vehicles onto the driveways and grounds of Mansfield residents by amending the litter ordinance. Since an amendment to litter ordinance would need to be addressed by the Town Council, the committee suggested that residents address Council directly to see if they want to change the Litter Ordinance.

Walton reported from the Town Manager that the swap shop, like the Senior Center, will be the last place to reopen. What is the impact on waste with the swap shop closed? Members asked Walton to analyze trash and bulky waste data. The swap shop subcommittee, Busky, Williams and Spak, will be meeting on Friday at the transfer station.

The Recycling Coordinator's Report included-

1. The Celebrate Mansfield Festival is not going to be a gathering of people, but rather a month of activities that residents can participate in on their own.
2. In order for CT DEEP to approve composting school scraps at the transfer station, a new demonstration project application must be submitted to the State. Walton is working on the application.
3. Several months ago Walton asked textile recycler, Simple Recycling, if they would be willing to work with the town's multi-family residences. They will only work with multi-family units if single-family is participating in the program. At this juncture all of Simple Recycling's operations have been suspended due to the virus.
4. SWAC's interest in seeing school deconstruction incorporated into the dismantling of Southeast Elementary School was passed along to the School Building Committee. According to the chairperson, school deconstruction information has been forwarded to the project manager. The Building Committee will discuss it with the hazardous waste abatement company and architects. SWAC

members asked to be kept posted on when this is on the School Building Committee's meeting agenda.

The next meeting is schedule for August 18, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton