

Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Minutes of Special Meeting  
Video Conference  
August 18, 2020

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by Chairperson Sherman.

On a motion by Kornblum/Busky, the July 21, 2020 meeting minutes were approved with one correction to the meeting date.

The Committee approved Walton sending a sympathy card on behalf of SWAC to Jim Knox, whose wife, Jane, died July 21, 2020. Jane was a long time member and chairperson of SWAC.

Members were introduced to the term “advanced” recycling, promoted by the plastics industry, which refers to processes like pyrolysis and gasification that turn plastic polymers back into individual monomers. Does this process use less energy than fossil fuel extraction and conventional recycling? Is it less polluting? Members discussed the legislative blueprint for the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act, a 22 page document filled with guidance on proposing state legislation. Walton was directed to draft a letter to Town Council to inform them about the proposed Act and recommend their support of parallel state legislation. SWAC will review the draft at the next meeting.

Walton stated that she is not sure whether the schools will be composting and using washable food service when it starts on September 3, 2020. At the direction of the Committee, Walton will send an e-mail to principals asking them if they will be composting and if they will be willing to encourage families who pack lunches to use reusable containers. In the e-mail offer SWAC’s assistance. Shelby offered to help promote reusable lunches.

Members reviewed a layout for a new swap shop building and three potential locations. The swap shop subcommittee met once at the transfer station and would like to have another meet again to review the swap shop guidelines and new building locations.

SWAC reviewed pages 28 and 29 of the multi-family zoning regulations that pertain to trash and recycling. Members did not have any comments to forward to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The Mansfield Town Attorney responded to a resident’s concern about newspapers/circulars creating litter pointing to court rulings that support the delivery of papers as free speech. The issue will be discussed at a future Town Council meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2020. Review of pandemic solid waste numbers will be included on the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton