

Town of Seneca Falls Waste Management Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
12/12/16

CALL TO ORDER The Waste Management Advisory Committee (WMAC) held a regular meeting on Dec. 12, 2016 at the Seneca Falls Town Office. Town Supervisor and committee chair Greg Lazzaro called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. Member Barb Reese recorded the minutes. Minutes of the Nov. 14th, 2016 meeting were approved as corrected.

Members present: Matt Blair, Dave Clark, Greg Lazzaro, Dave Pannucci, and Barb Reese
Guests: Dan Babbitt, Kyle Black, and Brad Jones

Unfinished Business Barb Reese is following up with Dean Zettlemoyer regarding any other permits for waste management facilities or waste water treatment facilities that he is monitoring for the town. Barb also submitted a FOIL request for permit information from the NYSDEC and is waiting for further response of active permits for the Town of Seneca Falls relating to management of waste.

Members of WMAC expressed interest in a Seneca Falls water treatment plant tour. Barb will set that up with Joe Tullo and share the date with all members of the WMAC.

New Business Barb Reese attended the New York State Association for Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling (NYSAR3) State Conference in Cooperstown, NY Nov. 2-4, 2016 and provided a report to members of the WMAC. See attached. WMAC members discussed possible waste alternatives for the Town of Seneca Falls.

WASTE ALTERNATIVES

Film Plastics – Prior to promoting awareness about film plastic recycling, we should confirm with our local recyclers at Tops, WalMart, and Wegmans that they are able to recycle all plastic wraps they receive.

Twinning the bins – making sure we have recycling available wherever trash is available. Supervisor Lazzaro expressed concern with cost of clean up after events hosted in the Town of Seneca Falls. Members questioned special event permits, specifically who is responsible for clean up. Should there be something in the event application regarding handling of waste generated? (requirements for recycling, port a potties, etc.)

Residential curbside Recycling Program – WMAC members agree that more education is needed to improve recycling rates. Discussed the creation of a colorful and simple recycling booklet that could be sent home to residents. Other ideas for education are a newsletter, website, telephone announcement/messages, or simple handouts. We would need to consult with our hauler to verify recyclable items. Funds should be available for education from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Seneca County. Also discussed sharing recycling information with k-12 students and families on the school district calendar or in school mailings, if permitted. Matt Blair suggested that Cornell University's Design Connect program might be able to help us increase recycling rates by implementing a pilot program that could include introducing recycling totes and recycling education. Kyle Black cautioned WMAC members about referring to trash collection or recycling as “free” because neither truly is. There are costs associated with both.

Organics Recycling and Composting – Both Dan Babbitt and Barb Reese have a common interest in community composting and would like to see this as an option for Seneca Falls residents in the future. We would need to quantify how much food waste is generated and could be recovered. WMAC members discussed handing out a community composting survey at a future town board meeting but agreed to focus first on recycling education.

PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING Prior to our next meeting Barb Reese will contact Lisa Keshel from the Seneca County Real Property Tax Office and get information regarding our recycling contract with Cardinal Recycling.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting was adjourned at 6 pm. Next meeting will be JANUARY 9, 2017 at 4:30 pm at the Seneca Falls Town Office.