

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting

11/15/23

4:30 PM

Members:

Chair: Councilor Keith Nyhan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Karen McNamara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Gail Matson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Brent Todd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Paula McLaughlin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Zandra Rice Hawkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Eric Steinhauser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reagan Bissonnette	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Judith Kurtz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carol Foss	<input type="checkbox"/>

Guests:

Apparel/Textile Recycling

Apparel Impact – Garrett Halvorson and Bill Kittredge (In person)

Helpsy – Dan Green (Remote)

Goodwill – Heather Steeves (Remote)

Carbotura ZeroFill Service with Regenesis Process

Glen Tobiason - InnoWaCon LLC (In person)

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 by Acting Chair Councilor Brent Todd who was asked by Chairman Councilor Keith Nyhan to run the meeting in his absence. As General Services staff addressed audio/visual setup to allow for guest speakers to attend remotely, a motion was made to approve the minutes from the previous SWAC meeting held 9/13. The motion passed unanimously. Eric Steinhauser recused himself as he was not present at the last meeting.

Adam Clark, Administration Division Manager at GSD then gave an overview of the Agenda. Following up on last meeting's delve into food scrap diversion, this meeting will focus on textile diversion and apparel recycling. Speakers from three organizations are on deck for presentations. Bill Kittredge and Garrett Halvorson from Apparel Impact, Dan Green from Helpsy and Heather Steeves from Goodwill New England.

The first presentation was by the gentlemen from Apparel Impact. They shared the history of the company and what they described as a focus on service being important for them. They use a hub and spoke system to deploy multiple strategies to maximize diversion in partner communities. They build sheds that have sensors in them to alert them of the contents and when collections are needed. They are currently servicing the Concord Transfer Station. In their experience they have found it makes a huge difference if towns promote the program.

Next was Dan Green from Helpsy. Helpsy uses a slightly different approach to collection and resale but is also focused on supporting residents with options for textile recycling. In addition to various drop-off type facilities they deploy in partner communities, they augment their program with free curbside collection of textiles for residents. They select a day which is not a recycling or trash collection day in the area to avoid confusion. Helpsy presently works with Boston, Bow, Exeter, Pembroke and Manchester among others.

Last on apparel recycling was Heather Steeves from Goodwill New England. Goodwill is a non-profit entity of which Goodwill New England covers NH, ME and VT. In addition to apparel recycling, Ms. Steeves adds that the organization offers many community services across a broad variety of need areas all supported by Goodwill store revenues and grant programs. They partner with various other Concord organizations such as Families in Transition, Waypoint, Crossroads House and others. She described the life cycle of donations and spoke about the organizations experience with unmanned drop-off locations which they do not use any longer.

The Committee then thanked all the presenters for their time and indicated they would distill and discuss what they learned at a future meeting.

Next on the agenda was a presentation by Glen Tobiason on the Carbotura ZeroFill Service with Regenesys Process. Mr. Tobiason gave a very detailed presentation to the committee on a new technology that he would like to offer in the region. He would need tonnage commitments but the end result would be a no cost, no emission disposal method. Director Chip Chesley shared with the committee that it appeared to him that Mr. Tobiason should perhaps reach out to the NH SWWG and NH regulators as there would not be much this committee could help Mr. Tobiason with though the prospect is interesting. The committee appreciated the presentation and indicated they would like Mr. Tobiason to keep them posted on his progress.

Last on the agenda was Other Business. Director Chesley shared that he was made aware of some inaccurate information that was floating around about the City planning to get rid of the PAYT program with the impending transitions to automated collection. Director Chesley reiterated that that is not the case and the plan is to begin the pilot program with the PAYT and monitor compliance. GSD will keep the committee updated on those efforts at the time. Councilor Todd reiterated this noting that the committee will have time in the future to discuss the various options for financing solid waste, balancing PAYT revenues and general fund support.

At the conclusion of this discussion, the committee set the date of 12/13 for the next meeting and will be seeking more regular meetings in the new year as the contracts are signed and program planning is underway.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.