

SWAAC Meeting Minutes

Albemarle County Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee

April 8, 2021 Online Meeting

Attendance SWAAC: Anne Johnson, Christine Hirsh-Putnam, Margaret Eldridge, Teri Kent, Monty Harris

Liaisons: Liz Palmer, Donna Price, Phil McKalips, Shirese Franklin, Lance Stewart

Others Attending: Betsey Soulsby, Melanie Authur

Absent: SWAAC: Navarre Bartz, Jesse Warren, Peggy Gilges

Old Business:

- March 2021 meeting minutes approved
- Teddy Hamilton has resigned as a SWAAC member
- Anne has been invited to join the Governor's Advisory Committee on Plastic Waste Prevention. 4 yr appt. First set of recommendations are due to the Governor's office in the fall.
- Anne reminded Lance about funding sources for recycling infrastructure
- Scott DeFife (Glass Recycling Foundation) may be able to help with funding for carts
- Phil reiterated that caps on bottles are viewed as contamination at the Madison Heights Sonoco facility. Anne noted that this contradicts the information given to SWAAC from Patrick McDonald and Dan Walker who spoke to the SWAAC in Nov 2020.
- The town of Scottsville will be voting on the new Southern Albemarle Convenience Center
- Liz looking forward to master planning for future convenience centers and a possible new home for the paper sort facility

Action Items:

- Anne will contact Scott DeFife about funding for glass containers
- Teri will provide numbers so that Phil can discuss them with haulers
- Anne reminded everyone to look over the Ball 50 State Recycling Report she emailed earlier. Virginia's recycling rate is quite low despite a large number of recycling facilities in the state.

Education and Outreach Subcommittee

- Christine and Melanie met with Tracey Levery from Keep Virginia Beautiful to discuss ideas for a litter awareness campaign including outreach to local country stores and radio PSAs
- Recycling Ambassador Program looking for more volunteers
- ACPS is interested in developing a litter education program

County & RSWA Operations Subcommittee:

- Phil reached out to Happy Little Dumpster about hauling glass from wineries and breweries. Teri will provide data Phil needs to discuss with haulers

Planning and Vision Subcommittee: No report - Peggy and Navarre not present

Governance:

- Shirese reported that TJPD will be updating the recycling goals and recommendations. The hard goals will be formulated first, then the public will be invited to give feedback and suggestions.

New Business:

- Teri reported that the UVA Write Climate class has made large art sculptures and is looking for places to display the art and suggestions for “calls for action” to reduce plastic waste
- Rob Dubas, Program Coordinator – Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful – provided a presentation on the Pennsylvania State Litter/Cost study
 - Pickup Pennsylvania provides free bags, gloves, vests, and a free or a reduced cost to dispose of trash for registered litter cleanup groups
 - Adopt a Highway program
 - Litter Prevention Education Program in English and Spanish
 - Illegal Dump Free Pennsylvania is a reporting program that provides resources to help clean up illegal dumps. The camera surveillance program will lend cameras to private landowners to help catch illegal dumping.
 - 85% of PA residents have access to curbside trash pickup. Less dumping when there is access to curbside pickup
 - Low risk of illegal dumping detection correlates with higher litter rates
 - Much more money is spent on abatement and cleanup than education and prevention.
 - Litter prevention strategies:
 1. Modeling appropriate behaviors through education
 2. Support for enforcement of litter laws
 3. Certificates to businesses that keep lots clean
 4. Litter-free School Zones

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm. Next meeting will be held Thursday, May 13, 2021