

# Falmouth Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 5, 2023 - 7:00 pm  
Town Hall, 59 Town Hall Square  
Old Water Department Meeting Room  
Falmouth, MA 02540

## Draft Meeting Notes

**1. Call meeting to order:** 7:02

**2. Take attendance**

Committee Members: Hap Garritt, Alan Robinson, Kristine Copley, Ruth Brazier, Julie Boettiger

Press: Noelle Annonen

**3. Approved minutes** from previous meeting

**4. Public Comment:** None

**5. Report from and discussion with DPW Recycling and Solid Waste Coordinator:** Mary Ryther

- Recycling contamination survey: 187 homes, 5 trips. Saving publishing the results until they have data for 300 homes. Biggest offenders: plastic film, plastic bags and trash
- Almost out of Smart Recycling Guide brochures. Asked to have more printed. Need to determine back contents
- Pick of the Litter - Pop Up Sale was well attended. The shed is cleaned out!
- November 14 Falmouth Public Library 6-7PM: Speaker Series: Mary/Alan presenting
- Senior Center: Open House 9/18 4-6PM Mary will have table to promote recycling
- Clothing/Textile collection 9/16 and 9/17 at Gus Canty
- Organizing a paper shredding drive on Mary's plate. Date: TBD

**6. Swap shop Status Update**

1,299 visitors in August, even with a rained out Saturday.

200 lbs/cart, 3 carts, and 13 pickups in August. 5400 lbs. We get charged monthly.

**7. Residential curbside recyclables survey update:** see above

**8. Plastics Regulations Committee update**

Kristine reported that not much has been accomplished because the group is realizing that this is a very complicated problem. If a plastics ban goes into place, it just creates more trash because Falmouth doesn't have a town-wide composting solution. In addition, PLA's - plant

based plastics require industrial composting and are a polluter of conventional plastic recycling because it looks/feels like actual plastic. There is no easy solution.

**9. August 8th meeting with DPW leadership** – items discussed and path forward

Collectively concluded that the Swap Shop has outgrown the facility. Need to look at other town owned property to house it.

**10. Interim trash tonnage reduction/food waste separation and composting plan**

- positive and encouraging responses from DPW director and town manager
- 9/11 presentation to Select Board

**11. New business:**

Mary and Alan met with Cary ((enter last name and correct title)) Municipal Area coordinator on a county level. Mary and Alan's goal: to jump start the state plan by looking into an upper cape composting facility. Cary working on this - may tap the Eric and Wendy Schmidt foundation for initial funding.

Also had discussion on how little progress has been made on the 2020 Solid Waste Master Plan, dated October 2021. The [link](#) to this 45 page document is:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/2030-solid-waste-master-plan-working-together-toward-zero-waste/download>

RDP money can be used for Black Earth pickup for schools and for an additional dropoff location. Mullen Hall - cafeteria and food waste composting starting this week

**12. Monthly Talking Trash column subject** - topic: tons of watermelon rind and banana peels

**13. Additional updates, meetings and announcements:** According to the Containers Recycling Institute, in MA, only half of the returnables get returned! Hap looking into this to see what this means to Falmouth.

**14. October meeting date:** October 3

**15. Adjourn:** 8:30