

Mid-Coast Waste Watch
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2017

Attendance: Anna Sideris, Beth Kwiatkowski, Marci Annis Casas, Josh Gerritsen, Jim Guerra, Alison McKellar, Maggie Timmermann, Tom Ford

GUESTS: MCSWC Staff, Pat Anderson & Swap Shop Volunteers: Darlene Conners-Litz and Kathlyn

Swap Shop: Chair Gerritsen opened the discussion on the Swap Shop and the upcoming season which is slated to begin the first week in April. Darlene and Kathlyn provided much insight on the day to day activities as they take place now. Darlene asked about having electrical power, and petty cash for trash bags & batteries (item testing) and a new horizontal turning book rack. The volunteers mentioned that it is difficult to get people to respect the rules of the swap shop and very frustrating when people are not allowed to “unload” without people rushing their items or hovering. There are also regular collectors that are also aggressive. It was determined that two people on a shift would be ideal. Current hours of operation are 10am to 2 pm, George Elliot works mornings Tuesday through Thursday, Darlene works afternoons on the same day and two women, Sharon & Elizabeth work on Fridays as a general rule.

Pat Anderson gave some perspective on other area swap shops and how they work. Some have paid staff members to help enforce the rules. Several operate under a 15 minute parking/time allocation per automobile for perusing & dropping off items. Additionally, some towns only allow their citizens to utilize the service and this rule is strictly enforced by the “employee” or volunteers. Pat suggested the volunteers have a better way of communicating when they need assistance. Anderson was concerned with volume on Saturdays and the spaces outside those items are left in. Conners-Litz spoke about the assistance the MCSWC staff gives to remove items from the area when the weekend begins.

The WW Committee members discussed other issues and came up with a plan to start the season as follows:

During the month of April members will be helping to staff the swap shop hours on a volunteer basis in order to get firsthand knowledge on the operation and see how volunteers might be utilized to staff the hours of operation.

- A 15 minute parking rule will be instituted – Guerra will order signage.
- Attempt to have two people on a shift whenever possible and contact information provided to the MCSWC Office for all volunteers
- Sign on door for items not accepted will be revised or repainted
- Employees will be asked to park away from the shop in designated spots.
- Volunteers will wear a name tag and vest when shop is in operation.
- A secure cash donation box will be purchased and cleared daily by the MCSW Office.
- An assortment of flyers in a display stand for other options for recycling or donating items in the area will be provided.
- Trash bags and batteries will also be provided. (McKellar has bags to donate initially MCSW will purchase batteries)
- Advertise the hours as Tuesday through Friday.

Other Swap Shop Ideas: Communication improvements so volunteers can get assistance if needed, volunteers would like electrical source to test items and possibly run a fan in summer, illusion of a security camera set up, A new book stand (horizontal/turning) , a new area for drop off (a trailer similar to the demo trailer near Gatehouse was discussed), a new area for storage (inside possibly), a new outside area with a temporary cover to be developed, setting rules for max number of daily visits, disgruntled visitors will be directed to the MCSW Office.

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High School Visit: McKellar has invited members to join her or a presentation to the High School Student Wind Planners Group McKellar, Guerra and Gerritsen will attend on March 16th from 9:30 am to 12:50 pm to work with students participating in “green week”.

Chris Wolfe Show: Waste Watch is invited to be scheduled onto the show. This will be discussed further.

Survey: The current residential Survey is going to run through the end of March. Alison and Beth will place a boost on the MCSWC FB page to help reach more citizens.

MCSWC Board Approval: A review of the information needed for presentation to the MCSWC Board and a final draft of the Mission Statement will be completed at the next meeting. Members are invited to attend the MCSWC Board of Directors Meeting on March 22nd at 7:00 PM in the Washington Street Conference Room at the Camden Town Office.

FUTURE TOPICS:

- What are the initial volunteer groups needed to grow Committee
- Survey Result Update, set plan for gathering information in April.
- Alison- Will contact Chris Wolfe Show when

Next Meeting:

March 16th, 2017 12:30 PM Richardson Room – Rockport Town Office