

Theodore Pietz  
85 Glen Road  
Portsmouth, RI 02871

April 3, 2023

*Submitted via e-mail to: The Office of the Town Clerk.*

Dear Town Clerk West,

It is with great regret to inform you of my resignation from the Solid Waste/Recycling Committee (SWRC)<sup>1</sup>.

Hopefully, the ongoing effort to solicit feedback on the “*Portsmouth Curbside Collection Request for Proposal White Paper*”<sup>2</sup> can align the stakeholders of our community with the key points of the SWRC’s January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 presentation to the Town Council (and reiterated in a “Letter to the Editor” the Portsmouth Times published November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022<sup>3</sup>):

*Town-wide curbside pickup funded by the general fund with some mechanism to implement pay-as-you-throw (PAYT), and ideally the transfer station converting to a “diversion station” with limited operating hours for continued diversion of ad hoc items.*

Additional data points have arisen to indicate further that the comprehensive solid waste and diversion management strategy for the Town of Portsmouth stands to be markedly improved. Recently, signage has affixed at the entrance of Clements’ Marketplace stating, “No Dumping Trash From Home.” Additionally, it seems that private hauler Republic has recently abruptly canceled all of its residential contracts in Portsmouth.

Looking towards the short-term future, Eva Touhey of Clean Ocean Access has graciously offered to present an overview of residential composing options; the Town Council might want to extend an invitation to her. An outstanding formal recommendation from the SWRC was that the Town of Portsmouth adopt a policy of requesting an “Event Diversion Plan” from event applicants as well as Town of Portsmouth property lessees. Lastly, recurring discussion by the SWRC surrounded strategies to limit the strewn about refuse at Sandy Point Beach (due to wind and wildlife) by installing permanent shelters for the waste and diversion receptacles.

Several digital resources are available to serve as a historical record as well as to inform future efforts. All minutes of SWRC meetings held since April 2017 have been filed at the Rhode Island Department of State Open Meetings portal<sup>4</sup>, which allows those minutes to be indexed by

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.portsmouthri.gov/225/Solid-Waste-Recycling-Committee>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.portsmouthri.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5396/Hybrid-Curbside-White-Paper-Final-03-14-23>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.eastbayri.com/portsmouth/stories/letter-theres-a-cost-of-doing-nothing-on-trash-operation,108748?>

<sup>4</sup>

<https://opengov.sos.ri.gov/OpenMeetingsPublic/OpenMeetingDashboard?subtopmenuId=201&EntityID=2692&MeetingID=0>

web search engines. Additionally, all relevant working documents and archived presentations from the SWRC are available at the open file repository: <http://swrc.beautifulportsmouth.com>

I offer my deepest appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the SWRC since December 2015, and it is my hope to continue to work alongside community members to bring about positive impacts for Portsmouth and Aquidneck Island.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theodore Pietz', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Theodore Pietz, Chair, Solid Waste/Recycling Committee

cc: Portsmouth Town Council  
Eva Touhey, Director of Sustainability, Clean Ocean Access  
Ihor Slabicky  
Paul Barandiaran  
Thomas Gorski  
Jason Spitalnik