

TOWN OF GOSHEN
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR RECYCLING AND TRASH - RATS
02/09/2022 - REGULAR MEETING - 6:30 PM - WEDNESDAY
This meeting was held in person at the Town Hall Conference Room and via Zoom Conference call.

Conference Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89492638342>

MEETING ID: 894 9263 8342 Option 2: Dial-in number: 1-929-205-6099

CALL TO ORDER: Paul Collins, Recycling Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

ATTENDANCE:

In person: Paul Collins-Recycling Coordinator, Lucy Hussman, and Todd Carusillo-First Selectman

Via Zoom: Cindy Barrett, Garret Harlow, and Rod Zander

Excused: Patrick Reilly

Guests via Zoom: Judi Armstrong, Henrietta Horvay, Annette Lott, Joyce Mowrey, Suzanne Rinaldi, and Kosta Voiklis

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

IN A MOTION made by Lucy Hussman, seconded by Rod Zander, **it was VOTED** to approve the minutes of 11/10/2021, and 01/12/2022. Voted unanimous. Garret Harlow abstained.

RECYCLING COORDINATOR UPDATE:

Paul reported on an issue that was brought to his attention by member Garret Harlow who is also Public Works Supervisor. With the merging of Albreada Refuse & Sweeping with USA Waste and Recycling, a Goshen Resident who has lived on the Norfolk line since 1987 had a concern about what town would be responsible for recycling pick up. Paul noted that he contacted USA and clarified that this is a Goshen resident but that the mailing address is Norfolk. He explained that property locations and mailing addresses can differ as is the case with some properties on the Litchfield line as well.

OLD BUSINESS: The following was presented and discussed by the committee:

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE: Cindy Barrett reported that she had made posts on Next-door and shared them via email with members. They included the following:

Appliance, Scrap Metal and Tire Pickup: The next pickup is Friday, March 4, 2022, and residents should call 860-379-1662 to arrange for pickup.

Electronics, Mattress & Paper Shredding Event: This event will be Saturday, April 9, 2022, at Goshen Town Hall from 9 AM to Noon.

<http://www.recyclect.com/>: This is the link to search for what items are recyclable for Connecticut residents.

Goshen website recycling calendar link: https://www.goshenct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif626/f/uploads/2022_r2_final_printable.pdf

Textile Bin Recycling: There are 2 bins from Baystate Textiles in Goshen for residents to place their textiles in order to recycle them properly and keep them out of the solid waste stream.

Plastic film recycling and composting: Will be posted in the near future with details.

WEBSITE/TOWN TOPICS: Paul had asked members to review the updates that he had made to the Recycling page of the Goshen Town website and offer feedback.

Discussion was had regarding updates to the "Quick Links" which include: "Can I Recycle? - How to Compost at Home - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - Textiles are so much more than clothes"

A suggestion was made to place the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day closer to the top of the page as a link as many people might not scroll to the bottom. Paul noted that once the date is set he will make that change and any other suggestions are welcome as well.

NEXTREX CHALLENGE: Paul screen shared the attachment of the flier for "Recycle beyond the Bag" that was posted with the agenda for this meeting. Paul reviewed the details of the challenge:

1. Goal: To have Goshen residents collect 500 pounds of plastic bags and plastic films which include ice bags, case overwrap from water bottles and toilet paper, Ziploc bags, newspaper sleeves, plastic mailers, and bubble wrap to name a few.

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The reward is a NexTrex bench which will be used in the new Conservation Commission pollinator garden. The challenge will run from April till October 1, 2022.

2. Location of the 3 collection bins: Paul reported that Todd Carusillo-First Selectman- has agreed to place one at the Goshen Town Hall. Other collection areas that could be considered include Woodridge Lake, Camp Coch. or one of the Goshen Business Circle businesses. Suggestions included adding to the list the plastic sheeting that goes over furniture as well as adding as many of the plastic films that are acceptable. Paul noted if it stretches it is the correct plastic film. He explained that the bags of film will be weighed, recorded, and the film will be brought to Big Y for deposit where it is compacted. Katie Hennessy, Recreation Director, would like a bin for the camp during the summer.

3. Discussion was had to compile a comprehensive list of plastics for the goshenct.gov website, to post fliers at the local banks, and post office bulletin board as well. Suggestion was made to contact the NHCOC about placing a collection bin there, the concern of high winds blowing over bins was discussed, and approaching the Goshen Center School for hosting a collection bin as in the past recycling programs had been done at the school. Paul noted that for Earth Day this year it is hoped to have a Recycling Truck as a part of program with the school.

GOSHEN TOWN TOPICS - "RECYCLING MATTERS-TALKING TRASH":

Paul screen shared the attachment of the article that was posted with the agenda for this meeting and he reviewed some data:

1. Residents need to be educated on the costs associated with trash from the towns perspective and that we need to get the weight of trash down that goes into the system. The costs were a little over \$80,000 in 2019 to will increase possibly to \$180,000 in fiscal year 2023.

2. Paul reviewed that the weights have gone up from 1,320 tons to 1,500 tons in 2020 due to COVID population changes in Goshen and the increase in transportation costs.

3. Paul reviewed that fees paid to USA by residents takes trash to Torrington but then Goshen pays for it to be transported from Torrington to Hartford by the ton. The MIRA plant will be closing in June and will become a Transfer Station for our trash to go by rail to Lexington, Ohio. Todd suggested that this article be in the Goshen Town Topics in March.

4. Mailer idea: Paul suggested that a town wide mail piece be considered to promote the plastic film challenge and the article as well. He noted that costs involved would be approximately \$800 for printing and mailing to reach all of Goshen. Discussion was had regarding this by members and guests and it was felt it would be a good idea to use the mailer as a reminder for the second week of April as well as be published in the March issue of the Goshen Town Topics. Todd updated members on changes with building permits and trash removal requirements.

5. The possibility of placing a plastic film collection bin or plain garbage bin at the Goshen Fire Department was also suggested for the challenge. Further collection of plastic films beyond the challenge dates was discussed and Paul noted that it is hoped that good habits will be formed and residents will take their films to the store as well as properly recycling electronics, which have significant weights, at the recycling events. Discussion of the bottle bill was had as well as recyclable items, paper shredding, and composting.

INA MOTION made by Lucy Hussman, seconded by Garret Harlow, **it was VOTED** to allocate funds towards a mailing about "Recycling Matters" and the film. Voted unanimous.

Paul shared that the plastic films collected by NexTrex stay in the US and the bench is made in the US as well. Information was shared by Joyce Mowrey on the possibility of matching grants for composting projects in Goshen through SustainableCT.org. Discussion was had about the future of trash management in CT.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

The next meeting will be on March 9, 2022, Wednesday, at 6:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

INA MOTION made by Lucy Hussman, seconded by Cindy Barrett, **it was VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Barrett
Cynthia Barrett

Received Feb 14th, 2022 10:05 AM

Attest Daniel H. Harlow Asst.
Goshen Town Clerk