

Litchfield SMART Task Force Meeting Minutes

Held at Litchfield Fire House

June 8, 2022

Chairman J Geci called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Members Present: J Geci, K Zullo, H Simko, L Losee, S Mullen, D Wilson

Attending: D Raap, First Selectwoman, N Boccio, Public Works Liaison

Approval of SMART Task Force minutes of meeting held May 11, 2022 – Correction of Loose to Losee. L Losee motion to approve. S Mullen second, all approved

COORDINATION WITH SUSTAINABLE LITCHFIELD

J Geci shared an email from Dean Birdsall. Sustainable Litchfield met with USA Hauling regarding pickup of compostable waste at the Litchfield High School. Weekly pickup of 2-yard bearproof and transport to Recycling Center would cost approximately \$700 a month. Weekly pickup of 2 bearproof transported to USA facility would be \$250 a month. These costs are prohibitively expensive and other options will be explored.

D Raap asked to see if town's tipping fee for July and August changes compared to rest of year.

Gabe and Sophie are still working on document for school administration and will share with the SMART Task Force for feedback.

LHS STUDENTS: JUNE 3RD WITH SIXTH GRADERS

D Birdsall's email shared that Gabe and Sophie did an excellent job with all four sixth grade classes. A pre-visit survey found that most kids had limited knowledge and participation in waste reducing activities, the students were very engaged in the program, and almost all pledged to talk to their parents about waste reduction. L Losee suggested contacting John McKenna for news coverage.

UPDATE ON THE RECYCLING CENTER/LANDFILL

N Boccio shared statistics. Most of the recycled materials have been successful. Waste oil is creating a problem because of contamination, costing over \$7000. Another 20-hr part-time staff for the Recycling Center will be added July 1st and will help facilitate the on-site composting. N Boccio is ready to end the Curbside Composting contract, as people are transitioning to plant-based only on-site composting. N Boccio will update food scraps numbers.

PUBLICITY/PROMOTION OF COMPOSTING – LETTER TO BUSINESSES, ETC.

J Geci has been in contact with WZBG and will do a 10-minute spot on the radio. J Geci would like to do a table at the grocery stores and post office. K Zullo will make half-page compost handout and home composting sign. J Geci will update his letter to businesses with more information on recycling. H Simko will write the envelopes and purchase stamps for letters to businesses.

J Geci has been in touch with John McKenna about covering the on-site composting at the Recycling Center and has set up an interview for June 24th. K Zullo will contact Kay Carol from the Litchfield Farmers Market regarding a table at a farmers' market and Colleen Kinkade from Litchfield Park and Rec to see if a Task Force member could speak during a Concert on the Green.

WEBPAGE UPDATE

J Geci would like the website to cover composting better by adding graphics of accepted/not accepted composting material and home composting to the website. Statistics on solid waste per capita will be updated to most recent numbers.

REPORT ON KATE & JERRY AT WHITE MEMORIAL – MAY 14, 2022

The attendance at the Let's Talk Trash talk at White Memorial was disappointing, only 2 people attended. The group agreed that future talks should take advantage of captive audiences such as those at dinners at the Litchfield Community Center.

OLD BUSINESS

D Wilson raised the question of black nursery pots. J Geci reported that Home Depot does take black nursery pots.

S Mullen will share an article on a recently discovered enzyme that breaks down plastic.

L Losee shared an article about the effort to clean up food waste and highlights programs in Meriden and Stonington.

N Boccio would like to purchase the garbage and recycling bins for the Historic District, and J Geci will provide the selected items. The old bins have been replaced with toters, and since they have been working, maybe there's no need to purchase expensive substitutes?

NEW BUSINESS/IDEAS

J Geci reported that Bic pen will recycle pens, regardless of brand.

The group discussed the idea of collecting trash at the recycling center at a per-bag fee to allow residents to end their hauling service, reduce their costs, and have people be more aware of the amount of trash they produce.

N Boccio has spoken to a company that collects books, similar to the textile recycling, that resells and recycles the books. She will talk to the company about having on at the Recycling center.

D Raap reported the Litchfield is moving from MIRA to USA Hauling. The town lawyer was asked about removing businesses from the town tipping fee and he reports that a town ordinance is needed. After July 1st, discussions about removing businesses from the tipping fee.

Motion to adjourn 5:35

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zullo

