

Minutes of Special Meeting  
Of  
Waste Reduction Committee  
Town Hall, July 30, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m. with the following in attendance: Jerry Geci, Chez Liley, Stephanie Weaver, and First Selectperson Denise Rapp.

Chairman Geci explained that the purpose was to establish a proposal for converting the use of disposables to reusables in all Region 20 cafeterias. The proposal will be presented to Superintendent Villar at a meeting to be held at 9:00 am on Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Geci explained that the State is compelling all school districts to make this conversion which gives further impetus to this proposal. Geci went on to explain that with Region 20 facing such financial challenges, studies show that this conversion can save money while helping the environment and leading students to an ethic of conservation. Geci went on to outline how reusables are healthier and better for the Earth while saving money. He went on to explain that if school officials go along with the change, an inventory of equipment such as dishwashers, silverware, and trays would have to be made at all schools. Much collaboration with school officials, custodians, teachers, and students would be required.

Weaver suggested taking a copy of the bill proposing the state-wide change to the meeting with the superintendent. Liley said West Hartford has a model that might be helpful to follow. Liley's

previous work with Litchfield Schools and Region 6 to reduce food waste and eliminate disposals was cited as a template for statistics that ought to be gathered.

Several questions were raised including: What entity oversees food service now? Are food scraps being diverted from the waste stream? What space is being used to house disposables? How much time goes into the ordering, storing, dispensing, and disposing of disposable utensils and trays?

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Geci

Chairman