

Litchfield Recycling Committee Minutes

Held on Zoom and Recorded

June 10, 2020

Chairman G. Geci called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm.

Attendance: N Boccio, G. Geci, D Wilson, D Raap, K Zullo

Guests: Craig Miner, State Senator

Minutes from February 12, 2020 meeting accepted unanimously

CRAIG MINER UPDATES FROM STATE

Craig Miner, Litchfield's State Senator, joined to give updates from the state, especially in regard to the MIRA plant. Miner reported a stalemate, that the plan to construct a new plant did not have municipal support because of the high tipping fees and that they are hoping the current plant can "limp along" until a new policy is developed. D Wilson asked about shipping costs. A discussion on the cost of shipping out of state was discussed. Miner discussed the need to drive down tonnage. Methods for doing this were discussed, such as removing clear glass that is heavy and can be re-sold and removing food waste. Educating the town about the cost of tipping fees to encourage was also discussed, as was the idea of a "super recycler," and the pay-per bag model. Miner noted that Southington had the only digester in the state, but that the state was considering increasing that number.

UPDATES FROM TOWN

D Rapp reported on the textile bins. They are operating, and people are using them. The compactor behind West St. was removed, and the bins behind the Village are being refurbished: there will be one for trash and one for recycling. Where the compactor was, there are plans to put in EV chargers.

Outreach and education ideas were discussed. D Rapp noted the new town website will be debuting soon and can be used to communicate. N Boccio suggested a recurring facts/tips be shared. K Zullo suggested having a table at the Farmers market, after Covid-19 concerns had passed. K Zullo was approached by Carrie Swved of the Sustainable Litchfield Committee. They are organizing a lecture series and invited the Recycling Committee to participate. The group agreed and K Zullo will be coordinating with C Swved.

UPDATE ON IMPROVEMENTS AT THE RECYCLING FACILITY AND LANDFILL AREA

N. Boccio spoke about updates to infrastructure and staff. They are currently looking to hire a new attendant. The credit card machine has been installed, and the new shed is being electrified next week. The swap and book exchange were shut down due to Covid-19, and the recycling facility is operating on temporary hours. The leaf and grass composting permits were obtained, and N Boccio is working to procure a permit for food scraps, but no one else has done this, so they are figuring out the process.

OLD BUSINESS

J Geci reported that the bins in town are working. When they are full, he calls Paul Adams to empty them

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Geci, Chairman