

Litchfield SMART Task Force Meeting Minutes

Held on Zoom

January 13, 2021

Chairman J Geci called the meeting to order at 4:09 pm.

Members Present: J Geci, K Zullo, D Wilson, C Liley, H Simko, L Losee

Attending: D Raap, First Selectwoman; N Boccio, Litchfield Public Works Liaison; A Devaux, High School Liaison

Minutes from December 15, 2020 – typo in first line from “into” to “to.” Otherwise, the minutes were accepted unanimously.

RECYCLING SHED UPDATE

N Boccio shared the flyer of acceptable materials that is being distributed with composting bags at the RC. Three compost bins were filled in three weeks. Discussion was held on how to advertise including, the sign at town hall, a sandwich board. A Devaux will ask at the high school office about promoting on the school board. Once all the updates at the RC have been finished, N Boccio would like to send a mailing to residents.

MIRA is looking at a tip fee increase on July 1st of \$95-\$101 per ton. There is a need to have composting in the school, and the possibility of having compost collection bins moved to the school. C Liley notes that schools may need help creating a system and signage. A Devaux is in the AP Environmental Science class and one group is working on educating the school on how to be more ecofriendly. The school principal expressed interest in it.

Home composting programs were discussed. K Zullo would like to host a compost education program in conjunction with the Tapping Reeve Meadow. J Geci will contact L Fulkerson about programs she has done.

DATA AND INFORMATION GATHERED FROM OTHER SOURCES - WEBINARS, WORKSHOPS, ETC.

CT Coalition for Sustainable Resources Management (CCSMM) webinar on January 11th attended by J Geci and D Rapp. State DEEP wants to reduce the amount of trash going into waste stream by setting up mandates and supporting towns reducing trash. D Rapp believes we need mandates – such as Pay-as-you-throw and extended producer responsibility (EPR) and the bottle bill - from the state level, along with education and enforcement. D Rapp also supported the idea of a regional waste coordinator through COG, who would educate municipal strategies, instead of individual towns hiring coordinators. Litchfield is a possible site for a regional facility for an anaerobic digester, which would be a private facility on leased town land.

PUBLICIZING, EDUCATING, LEGISLATING POSSIBILITIES

K Zullo suggested videoing someone dropping off their compost to show how easy it is. J Geci will get in touch with John McKenna to have the committee meet up there to show off the compost collection. J Geci also suggested writing letters to the editor. K Zullo will send a flyer to virtual backpack.

PROPOSED ACTIONS UNDER SECTION 7 OF SUSTAINABLE CT PROGRAM

James Keithan is our liaison with the Sustainable Litchfield Committee. J Geci will keep updating him on proposals and actions of the SMART Task Force.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF UPCOMING WEBINARS, ZOOM MEETINGS, AND WORKSHOPS.

D Rapp said that CCSMM webinars will be available for viewing on the CT DEEP website.

DISCUSSION OF MISSION STATEMENT

The committee discussed and approved the mission statement as proposed by J Geci. At the next meeting we will discuss how to implement our mission.

OLD BUSINESS

H Simko has lanyards and SMART committee IDs. She will bring them when the committee meets at the Recycling Center.

NEW BUSINESS

L Losee brought up Earth Day planning. The committee usually works with the Rotary Club, and N Bocci will contact them. Earth Day planning will start in February.

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zullo