Litchfield SMART Task Force
Minutes of the Special Meeting
Held on Zoom
March 17, 2021

Chairman J Geci called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm.

Members Present: J Geci, K Zullo, C Liley, H Simko

Attending: D Raap, First Selectwoman; N Boccio, Litchfield Public Works Liaison; C Kinkade, Litchfield Parks & Rec; A. Devaux, Litchfield High School Liaison

RECYCLING CENTER UPDATE

N Boccio reported the curbside compost program collected ½ a ton of food scraps. The cost to remove was $285 which would have cost $46 in tipping fees. While the cost exceeded the savings, it is a new program and costs will go down as more people use the service. Overall, at the RC, revenue collected exceeds revenue spent. N Boccio researched recycling Styrofoam. Unfortunately, the costs for proper disposal or purchasing even a small machine are very high. Naomi feels it would be best as a regional effort. MSW tipping fee is increasing to $105 a ton tipping fee which will add an additional $73,150 to the town budget. A new fence is being installed around the area. H Simko mentioned the RC is not taking shredded paper; unfortunately, it cannot be recycled with other recyclables.

SCHOOL AND PROGRAMMING UPDATES

K Zullo has coordinated with the Master Composter Program from UCONN to organize a home composting workshop on May 22nd to be held in the Tapping Reeve Meadow.

C Liley reported that Wamogo does not compost. She has also talked with Forman and Beth Mann is interested in opening conversations in April. She would like to put together a presentation to show possibilities and help reduce trash.

LCC is holding series of lectures “Precycling, Recycling, Upcycling” in May, June, and July and looking for speaker. H Simko volunteered to handle Pre-Cycling, K Zullo and N Boccio will handle Recycling, and H Simko and J Geci will lead the Upcycling.

LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE

J Geci reported on coverage in the Litchfield.bz and local papers in January and February. K Zullo shared a scheduled social media calendar for consistent communication with the community.

PROPOSED ANSWERS TO SECTION 9.1 AND 9.2.1 FOR BRONZE LEVEL IN SUSTAINABLE CT PROGRAM

J Geci has been working on gathering information for the Sustainable CT program and has emailed the answers to the task force. Jerry asked members to submit changes or questions to him.

WASTE (DOG POOP) ISSUES IN THE CENTER OF TOWN
D Rapp has had conversations with Dirk Patterson about the availability of trash bins in the center of town. The toters in town are gone and the committee has worked to have two collection points (one by the P.O. and one near the courthouse). Paul Adams, who collects the trash, will be meeting with borough regarding problems with the trash collection. D Raap would like to work with the borough to solve this problem.

**EARTH DAY**

Events are being planned for Saturday, April 24th

C Kinkade and N Boccio have been working with the Rotary. With Parks and Rec, people can sign up through the MyRec Site. People will be able to sign up for roads to clean thru Parks and Rec and can pick up bags and materials from spots in town the week before the clean-up. Publicity will include social media, WZBG, Litchfield.bz, flyers to schools. E.L.V.I.S. will be coordinating a cleanup effort in East Litchfield.

Rotary and Parks and Rec will talk on food options and cost. C Kinkade offered the town beach or community field as possible outdoor location. D Raap shared compostable take-away containers.

Other participants include the High School's Earth Day Week with programs on the pollinator pathway, the solar panels, composting. Litchfield Bancorp will hold a shred day.

**MISSION AND PAY AS YOU THROW PROGRAMS**

D Raap shared that studies have shown that most people will not reduce trash unless there is a financial reason. While PAYT is shown to reduce trash by 40% and save communities money, implementing PAYT is politically unpopular, so change will need to come from higher up in the state. D Wilson brought up talking with haulers. N Boccio is working on changes to ordinances to possibly allow experimenting with PAYT for residents at the Recycling Center.

**ROAD RACE UPDATE**

The LHRR will be held at the Plumb Hills Play Field but will not allow spectators while limiting the number of runners. The SMART Task Force will not be involved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:37

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zullo