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

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

Attending: D Raap, First Selectwoman; N Boccio, Litchfield Public Works Liaison; S Mullen, joining member

RECYCLING CENTER UPDATE

N Boccio sent a quarterly report of materials collected at the Recycling Center. Also discussed was teracycle program information and flyers, including a textile recycling flyer and recycling center brochure. Recycling Wizard has been added to the town website as a resource. N Boccio is still waiting for food scrap permitting to be approved.

J Geci suggested an attention-grabbing item such as a manakin with a single recycling suggestion.

EARTH DAY CLEAN UP SUMMARY

During Earth Day Clean Up, .74 Tons of garbage was picked up by approximately 60 people. Having Colleen from Parks and Rec organize sign-ups was successful. H Simko suggested reaching out to boy scout and girl scout groups and other student groups. D Raap and N Boccio staffed a table during the LHS Earth Week events, students were reluctant to sign up, but the event has promise. J. Geci said that Anna and he had success talking to and handing out info sheets to a few small groups. The cold temps and wind were challenging outside near the baseball field.

LATEST PUBLICITY

D Raap shared an article on a new coalition advocating for investment and expansion of America’s compost infrastructure. Litchfield’s efforts fit right in.

TRASH AND RECYCLING IN TOWN

D Raap did not have updates from the Litchfield Borough. The next HDC meeting will be on 5/20.

BACKYARD COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

K Zullo has been working with presenters from UCONN’s Master Gardener Program and has organized a Backyard Composting Workshop for Saturday, May 22nd at 11:00. Signs and flyers for the Recycling Center and textile recycling will be displayed.

RECYCLECT GRANT APPLICATION

The consensus from the special meeting was to focus the grant on promoting composting in Litchfield. Potential plans include having people sign up to commit to compost – including buckets to encourage sign up, a brochure to every household on the benefits of food diversion and how to compost in their
backyard or at the Recycling center. The grant could cover the cost of buckets, printing and postage, and design fees for the brochure, and money for the creation of informational videos. Other discussions for grant money included improvements to the website and radio promotion.

S Mullen and C Liley will meet to work on the grant. N Boccio will investigate prices for compost buckets.

**PARTICIPATION IN LCC “PRECYCLING, RECYCLING, UPCYCLING”**

Monday, May 17th, S.M.A.R.T. will be presenting in the Litchfield Community Center’s lunch and learn series.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

S Mullen heard about a product called the boss defrost that reduces the amount of water used to defrost foods in the food services. J Geci attended a conference run by the NRRA that has resources for a variety of aspects of waste reduction.

The meeting adjourned at 5:19

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zullo