

Litchfield SMART Task Force Meeting Minutes

Held on Zoom

July 14, 2021

Chairman J Geci called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

Members Present: J Geci, K Zullo, H Simko, L Loose, S Mullen

Attending: D Raap, First Selectwoman; N Boccio, Litchfield Public Works Liaison

MINUTES

K Zullo moved to accept the minutes of June 9, 2021 meeting, H Simko seconded. All approved.

RECYCLING CENTER UPDATE

Swap shop is now open. The brochures are ready to be printed. They will be multi-colored and mailed to every household. There is now an A Frame for posting brochures and informational posters. Stickers for residents are being distributed on site. There is an issue with the concrete floor in the building which was recognized and budgeted for. As it is being repaired, the Recycling Center will need to close for approximately 3 days. N Boccio has shared the year-to-date report and the Recycling Center is covering all expenses and earning a profit to fund improvements. The Curbside compost has eight bins that are being picked up every 2 weeks. While the food scrap program is costing more than it is saving, it is valuable in establishing habits for people to drop off food scraps for when the town starts its own composting.

GRANT APPLICATION

S Mullen stated that our application for the Lee Sawyer Grant was submitted, and we will know if we have been awarded it in September.

EPA ANAEROBIC DIGESTOR GRANT

During a CCSMN webinar, D Raap expressed interest in the town hosting an anaerobic digester. The town used to have anaerobic digesters off Stoddard Road near the sewer plant. D Raap contacted Ted Donahue, plant superintendent of WPCA, to express interest in having Litchfield host a regional digester possibly. Research is needed into the cost to build and run as well as state money available. The Committee agrees it would need to be a regional facility.

DISCUSSION OF ACTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE LITCHFIELD'S SUBMISSION FOR SLIVER

Sustainable Litchfield is going for the silver certification in August. The SMART Task Force has done work that can be submitted for points including.

- Submit for points our textile and food scrap composting programs (10 points each)
- Submit for points for food waste awareness campaign (5 points)

The largest points can be gained by moving to a PAYT program. J Geci re-iterated that he hopes PAYT will be mandated at the state level. D Raap suggested the committee send a letter to the Selectmen asking for non-residential waste to be paid for by users. Commercial dumpsters are weighed before dumping. 51% of the town's tipping fee comes from commercial. K Zullo supported the idea since

commercial businesses contribute to town waste and the cost is carried by the residents. D Raap shared those commercial businesses do not have incentive to recycle. S Mullen and L Loose also expressed support. H Simko asked how the weight would be determined, the answer was that dumpsters can be weighed. J Geci will compose a letter and send to the committee by email.

TRASH AND RECYCLING IN CENTER OF TOWN

D Raap would like SMART to go to the HDC to address trash receptacles on the green. Cost and maintenance will be addressed after talking to the HDC.

OUTREACH AND PUBLICITY

H Simko asked about sending out a letter. K Zullo shared the social media posts are reaching between 1,000-2,000 of people each post. N Boccio shared the new recycling brochure and suggested an insert can be added to the personal property declaration mailing in September. The Committee will write a letter sharing the group's mission.

TO ZOOM OR NOT TO ZOOM

The group will do a hybrid version for its next meeting in August.

NEW /OLD BUSINESS

The size of the task force was brought up. H Simko supported increasing the size. J Geci suggested we leave the size as it is, but if the Task Force faces issues that demand more people, then that will be the time to increase our membership.

L Loose shared his under the counter compost container.

H Simko shared sticker ideas for the compost challenge.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:30

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zullo