

Litchfield SMART Task Force Meeting Minutes

Held at Litchfield Public Works

December 8, 2021

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

Members J Geci, K Zullo, S Mullen, L Losee, C Liley, D Wilson

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

MINUTES

S Mullen motion to accept minutes. L Losee seconded, all approved.

RECYCLING CENTER UPDATES

N Boccio is still waiting for checks from Bay State Textiles. Naomi showed the members the new signs that have been made up for the on-site composting we will be doing at the landfill. As far as drop-off points: there will be two spots for leaving compost in the beginning – one where the current bins are, the other up above where leaves are no being composted. Over the summer, the collection spots will be consolidated. The collection bins will be dumped nightly and cleaned often. N Boccio is hoping to start on-site composting on January 1.

WEBPAGE UPDATES

C Liley has been working to improve the SMART Task Force webpage on the Town Website. C Liley explained that the group must work within the limitations of the town website structure. The group discussed how to make the website dynamic with graphics. S Mullen will take on compiling committee feedback on line and pass it on to Liz.

EDUCATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

J Geci meet with residents at Bantam Falls and gave a talk on the town's efforts to recycle and compost. He would like to have more such talks at other facilities around town. The group discussed email lists. K Zullo suggested having a table at the Litchfield Farmers Market to pass out flyers and collect food scraps. D Wilson noted the people will be disposing of Christmas Tree and the group discussed tree disposal options available to Litchfield residents.

J Geci will speak with John McKenna about reporting on the composting changes at the Recycling Center.

SMART GOALS AND BUDGET

N Boccio spoke to USA Hauling about separating residential and commercial tipping fees. D Raap spoke with USA Hauling about changing trash pickup to every other week and recycling every week. D Raap has also spoken to USA Hauling about the use of smaller size totes. K Zullo recommended new customers default to the smaller bin size and must opt-in to the larger size.

The Litchfield SMART Task Force Goal for 2022:

Reduce Trash by 10% is the goal for this year by increasing food waste diversion.

Having established on-site composting at the Recycling Center, the SMART Task Force will continue to pursue the goal of increasing food waste diversion by creating a program to supply residents with compost bins and develop a program for food scrap pick-up. Additionally, the task force will increase community awareness and education through outreach at local events, such as farmers markets, and a range of media outreach.

The budget to meet these objects will include the cost of buckets and the cost for someone to pick up compost. The budget will also include for dissemination of information, including printing and mailings. The budget will be submitted to town hall by mid-January.

HISTORIC DISTRICT TRASH BINS

J Geci and D Raap discussed the cost of the dog-waste bins and trash bins for the Historic District and where the money will come from. The Beautification Committee may have some funds to help out. Also, new bins will be located in the town center in the early spring.

OLD BUSINESS/ NEW BUSINESS

None

D Wilson motion to adjourn. L Losee second. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zullo