

Litchfield SMART Task Force Meeting Minutes

Held at Litchfield Fire House

May 11, 2022

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

Members Present: J Geci, K Zullo, C Liley, H Simko, L Losee, S Mullen

Attending: D Raap, First Selectwoman, D Larson, member of public.

Approval of SMART Task Force minutes of meeting held March 9, 2022 – H Simko motion to approve. L Loose second, all approve

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

The Task Force reflected on the Earth Day Celebrations. Over 60 people attended the Saturday Road-side cleanup. The group agreed the event was well run by Parks and Rec and identified areas for improvement, including reducing the amount of trash produced at the event (i.e. encouraging reusable water bottles and not distributing t-shirts.) Also brought up was potential ways to separate recycling and trash during the clean-up and ways to unify the roadside clean up with the Sustainable Litchfield earth day celebration. Sustainable Litchfield event was also successful, and 25 compost buckets were distributed. The group discussed finding ways to reach audiences that don't already reduce trash. Member of public, D Larson agreed that extending the event and getting younger people involved would be beneficial. Other ideas for education were discussed, including speaking during Concerts on the Green or having a table at the Farmer's Market during the summer.

LHS UPDATE

D Birdsall and students sent over information about an announcement video about waste reduction, including reducing waste, recycling, and composting. A presentation on food waste for sixth graders, including a sorting game will be presented to all 4 classrooms on Friday, June 3rd. They will be meeting with a representative from USA Hauling on Friday, May 13th. They will be speaking about composting at the Litchfield High School and collecting data for the BOE and Administration with the aim of creating a policy. They would like input from the SMART Task Force on what should be included in the policy.

MONEY FROM NIPPERS AND BUDGET

The SMART Task Force received \$2514 from the 50,000 nippers were sold in Litchfield in the last six months. Package stores are charging an extra nickel on nippers and the proceeds will be used by the SMART Task Force for waste reduction in the town. S Mullen motion to use budget to pay for lids for compost buckets. H Simko second, all approve.

RECYCLING CENTER UPDATE AND PROMOTION

Bob Curtis and J Geci have been visiting the compost at the Recycling Center. Not enough people have deposited scraps to integrate into the compost. Ideas for promotion include collecting at the farmers market and orientation videos on the website. K Zullo and J Geci will find a time to make an orientation video at the Recycling Center. J Geci has proposed supplying more compostable bags for distribution at the Recycling Center.

PROMOTIONS

J Geci will contact WZBG about doing an announcement and filling the 8:20 spot. J Geci has suggested having a table at high traffic areas, such as the post office, Stop and Shop, and the Market and will talk with the manager about dates. K Zullo will contact the Farmers Market about having a table over the summer. J Geci will contact John McKenna about having an article in Litchfield.bz. J Geci made compost posters that will be hung at the Town Hall, Post Office, Community Center, Grocery Stores, and Library. C Liley suggested starting a newsletter.

WEBSITE UPDATES

The button for the RecycleCT has been updated and is on the website. The group discussed attaching additional PDF's with list for what can be recycled. S Mullen will make a list with what can be recycled at the Recycling Center. J Geci asked the group to take a through look at the website.

MEDIA COVERAGE

J Geci wrote a letter to the editor of Litchfield.bz. J Geci is writing a letter to businesses that will be mailed to businesses in town.

WHITE MEMORIAL LET'S TALK TRASH

J Geci and K Zullo will be presenting on composting and recycling at White Memorial on Saturday, May 14th.

NEW BUSINESS

L Loose asked about getting recycling for black plastic plant pots. J Geci will call Home Depot to see if they take back pots.

Motion to adjourn 5:34

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zullo