

Litchfield Smart Task Force
Wednesday, July 13, 2022
Litchfield Fire Department
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: N. Boccio, G. Geci, L. Losee, H. Simko, S. Mullin, C. Liley. D. Raap and K. Zullo absent.

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the last regular meeting were voted on and approved with one error. L. Losee's said the name of Kaye Carroll was misspelled in the last minutes. H. Simko made motion to accept with changes made, second by C. Liley. Minutes unanimously accepted.

Recycling Report: N. Boccio said the new company replacing MIRA in town is USA Hauling, and D. Raap was able to obtain better pricing. A book bin is supposed to be placed at the RC for large hardback books which cannot be recycled as paperbacks can. This will keep those heavy books out of MSW. Also, Naomi handed out an update on the YTD Revenue/Expenses for the year. All revenue is not yet in but so far the operation of the RC is in the black by \$16,344.00. Composting has started and we have ended our contract with CT Curbside Compost who then asked if we would accept food scraps from towns in Litchfield County. The task force agrees that we should not unless we are paid.

Suggestions from the floor: H. Simko suggested we find estate sales people and educate them on properly disposing of items and recycling vs just tossing everything into a dumpster. She came up with this idea from when she had her "Organizing" people to help people downsize.

C. Liley suggested we get businesses who use "K" cups to stop doing this. The cups cannot be recycled. She suggested we put in an ordinance banning businesses from doing this in Town. Also, she also suggested making composting mandatory for businesses and large facilities like schools, Brandy Wine, restaurants. S. Mullen suggested that when businesses purchase veggies from Vibrant Farm or other farms, the farmers can hand out composting flyers and/or take the composting from people when they show up to make their purchases.

J. Geci said that many residents don't have a recycling toter next out on collection day and although some people use the RC, he thinks many people may be tossing recyclables into their trash toter. Education is key.

C. Liley said we need to have some type of enforcement. Perhaps it would be worth hiring someone. N. Boccio suggested it may be better to push the Tip Fees back to the businesses.

J. Geci stated he will get in touch with D. J. again to see if he can get on the LABA schedule to be a speaker at one of the meetings. Also, S. Mullen said he would help C. Liley and K. Zullo (who was absent but was volunteered to do the project) of putting together a slide show for LABA and another for the BOE for composting and recycling. At the meeting J. Geci will do a PowerPoint presentation on recycling and composting. Members suggested asking and explain the following:

- Are you recycling?
- Are you composting? Will you able to store the compost if you do?

- Explain tipping and hauling fees and their responsibilities as in 2021 non-residential facilities made up 51% of the MSW.

Comments about the Website: J. Geci said he worked with the Town's IT person on the compost section of the SMART website. Still, he said more work is needed.

BOE: C. Liley suggested we push the schools into composting. She approached the BOE but they have only done what they have in the past and doing the same thing with the kids again. She said she was told they cannot compost because of the bears, the smell, and the possibility of rats. S. Mullen said in one school they had a challenge, "ORK" where they would see how much food scraps they could NOT have and try to have less and less every time. L. Losee said a school in New Hampshire they have been recycling for over 25 years and he sees no reason why Litchfield can't be recycling in our schools. N. Boccio said going back into the classrooms may help teach the kids. H. Simko suggested perhaps showing a slide show to educate them.

Goals and Accomplishments: J. Geci suggests we have a table in front of the PO to inform more people of our aims and give out flyers and info sheets. S. Mullen thought hand-outs add to the problem of trash and feels we give out fewer handouts and use a "QR" code instead. Both could be used. J Geci will check with Postmaster for possible dates.

Other Business to Properly Come Before the Committee: None.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for August 10th, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. at the Litchfield Fire Department.

Respectfully submitted,
Naomi Boccio