

Litchfield SMART Task Force Meeting Minutes

Held at Litchfield Fire House

August 10, 2022

Chairman J Geci called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

Members Present: J Geci, K Zullo, H Simko, L Losee, D Wilson

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

Approval of SMART Task Force minutes of meeting held July – H Simko corrected grammatical correction. L Losee motion to approve. H Simko second, all approve

RECYCLING CENTER UPDATES

N Boccio talked to man from book collection, and they will bring in a container. The Recycling Center had 24% profit at end of last fiscal year. The cost of uncollectable materials (ex: trash picked up from side of road) was \$1,612.50. Contaminated oil was a large expense; now the Center will only accept oil in a like container (another oil container.)

STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING

J Geci brought up having students help with promotion, for example on social media sites such as TikTok. The new AP Environmental Science teacher would like to meet with the Task Force. The Task Force would like to see a food waste diversion program in the high school. The Task Force will meet with the AP teacher in a special meeting to be held Wednesday, August 17th.

J Geci suggested the members of the group take 3-5 food service businesses to contact and talk about the food waste diversion. J Geci will send out the list of businesses for the group to select and at the special meeting the group will finalize the conversation talking points.

CENTER FOR ECO TECHNOLOGY CONVERSATION

At 4:30 the Task Force spoke via a conference call with Catherine from the Center for Eco Technology (CET). It is a non-profit that helps businesses, individuals, and groups like the S.M.A.R.T. Task Force to evaluate their practices and find ways to increase recycling and food waste diversion. They shared the success from Greenwich Food Matters campaign as an example. CET produces a newsletter and will add SMART Task Force members to the list. The Task Force shared that our main priorities are the composting program and waste reduction in the schools. CET has worked with schools in the past. D Raap will reach out with questions regarding success in convincing schools to switch from disposable cutlery to reusable and implementing compost programs.

OLD BUSINESS

The Task force had a conversation on the possibility of separating recyclables such as cardboard, glass, and aluminum to have a cleaner, more usable and more profitable product. USA Hauling should be contacted about this.

The Task Force discussed the possibility of transferring tipping fee from being paid in taxes to being paid by residents and business owners to the hauler. D Raap will have a discussion with the Selectmen on 8/16 and will report back at the next special meeting.

L Losee motion to adjourn 5:30. K Zullo seconded and all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zullo