

Litchfield SMART Task Force Meeting Minutes

Held at Litchfield Fire House

October 12, 2022

Chairman J Geci called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

Members Present: J Geci, K Zullo, L Losee, S Mullen

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

Approval of SMART Task Force minutes of meeting held September 14, 2022. S Mullen motion, K Zullo second, all approve.

RECYCLING CENTER UPDATES

N Boccio shared the report for July, August, and September at the Recycling Center as well as the following updates:

- Food composting going well, plenty of leaves. Canton toured the facility.
- No qualified candidates for the part-time position, but an ad will be re-run.

USA hauling is taking all garbage that had been going to MIRA. They have separated the cost of recycling from waste, charging approximately \$45 a ton per recycling and \$105 for waste.

At the Recycling Center, they are considering keeping cardboard separate from single stream. One bay at the RC is open as a possibility for having a compactor for trash, charging a cost, such as \$5 a bag. A per bag fee would allow residents to save money on hauling costs and encourage less trash production.

S Mullen and D Raap will work on creating a google sign-up list for composters who want to receive finished compost when it is ready.

ED ADVANCE MEETING

J Geci, D Raap, and N Boccio met with Jeremiah of Litchfield Public Schools and Becky Tyrell from EdAdvance. They are open to composting food scraps in their food preparation kitchen but will need transportation of the containers they fill with compostables.

J Geci, D Raap, and N Boccio will go to Center School next Monday, October 17th, to do a food audit. They also spoke about introducing silverware and sorting. L Losee shared Watertown, MA, school's waste reduction efforts as an example that Litchfield may emulate.

D Raap asked USA Hauling's Erik Frederickson to weigh the October and November pick-ups from 9 sites in town. For example, Frederickson estimated that Forman produced upwards of 9 tons of trash a month, adding up to approximately \$12,000 a year in cost for the town.

RESTAURANT UPDATE

S Mullen spoke with the owner of Petraroia to have him coordinate with Greg Raap of the Village Restaurant for pick-up and transportation of its compost to the Recycling Center.

PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY

“Are You Composting Yet?” shows up on the board in front of the Town Hall. J Geci suggested using “Are You Compositing Yet?” to be SMART’s slogan and would like the Arts Council to create a banner for the Recycling Center and elsewhere.

D Raap did an Instagram poll, and of the 50 voters, 70% said they did compost and 30% said they did not.

J Geci would like to dress up the signage at the Recycling Center and will speak to Prescilla Jeffries about what might be done.

D Raap and J Geci attended the first Chair Share event held on September 21st at the Litchfield Community Center. Each chairperson spoke briefly (well, some did) about his/her committee.

K Zullo is making a scarecrow for the “Scarecrows in the Meadow” event. The recycling scarecrow will be made of recycling materials and bear the sign: “Are You Composting Yet?”

WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, MEETINGS

D Raap attended CCSMM Reuse and Recycling Working Group meeting. East Hartford and Naugatuck shared that in their towns they have recycling bin audits of residential bins and tag what should not be in there. We are considering doing this to have cleaner recyclables.

S Mullen will be attending a conference on diverting food waste in schools on November 8th.

OLD BUSINESS

J Geci organized having a table at the Post Office from 11:00-12:00 on Saturday 10/22 with literature and flyers to promote composting.

S Mullen motion to adjourn 5:10. K Zullo seconded, and all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zullo