

Litchfield SMART Task Force Meeting Minutes

Held at Litchfield Fire House

December, 14 2022

Chairman J Geci called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

Members Present: J Geci, K Zullo, C Liley, H Simko (appointed from alternates)

Attending: D Raap, First Selectwoman, N Boccio, Public Works Liaison; K Harris, Litchfield High School AP Environmental Science Teacher

Approval of SMART Task Force minutes of meeting held November 9, 2022. C Liley motion to approve, H Simko second, all approve.

RECYCLING CENTER UPDATES

N Boccio shared updates from the RC.

DEP reached out about composting reports (amount of food scraps brought in, amount of brown material added, weather and temperature each day, contaminations, turning schedule, etc.) Torrington and Harwinton came to see the facility as Torrington is planning to build its own. We will support them. Take 2 will take Christmas lights for recycling, and from January 3rd – January 7th Christmas Trees will be accepted at the RC.

N Boccio spoke with NexTrex about plastic recycling. They will take recyclable plastic. The RC would need a bailer which would be a substantial upfront cost to purchase or rent. We would need to commit for 2 years and be able to store 15-20 bales of plastic. After cost, for 15 bales, the savings would be \$728-\$1836. This needs more study.

The town has hired a part-time recycling coordinator.

SCHOOL COMPOSTING UPDATE

K Harris, LHS AP Environmental Sciences teacher, reported on the week-long school composting pilot at the Litchfield High School begun on November 28th. The students created publicity material before the pilot started, and on the day students directed their classmates how to correctly dispose of trash and compostable material. Over the week the need for directions lessened. The students also made information cards for the tables. About 10 lbs. a day were collected, not including what the cafeteria produced. Next a survey will be created that asks students for comments and suggestions and if they are willing to continue with the program. The cafeteria staff loved the capability of composting because they have food waste on the preparation side and were able to compost spoiled food. Ten pounds of coffee grounds were also collected from other sources and over 300 K-Cups were collected. The recycling also improved and had less contamination. Scheduling a pick-up every other day or twice a week would be sufficient.

Recycling has been harder; progress has been slower, and the AP students have learned a lot about red tape and proceeding slowly.

At the January 10th CCSMM meeting on School Cafeteria waste, K Harris will be presenting on the program.

RESTAURANTS UPDATE

Petroria is composing 2-3 buckets a week. Ollie's has not started but expressed interest. D Rapp connected @theCorner with Kim from the Center for EcoTechnology to help that restaurant start composting. Forman is now bringing a truck load of food waste to Chanticleer Acres every week. D Rapp spoke to Krafted Brew Lab, and they compost their coffee grounds.

C Liley shared a company, Recirclable, which provides alternatives to single use take-out containers.

PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY

K Zullo and J Geci set up a table in front of the Post Office November 12th and spoke to around 25 people. They had good conversations and reached new audiences. K Zullo felt the conversations were more productive than having a table at the Farmers Market and suggested doing it again.

C Liley emailed the Task Force with potential newsletter suggestions. D Rapp suggested importing into Canva to create graphics. K Zullo sent out a couple more newsletter suggestions. The group read and discussed changes and to the write-up to Chez's draft. The newsletter will be distributed through the town eblast.

Earth Day Celebration planning will begin in January.

OLD BUSINESS

The group discussed briefly the possibility of a trash compactor at the Recycling Center and the possibility of reusable cutlery at the schools.

Blue Earth Compost's Sam King presented their company's purpose and procedures at the November 15th Selectman Meeting. Mr. King will be putting together a proposal for the Town of Litchfield. At least 50 clients are needed to participate in the program.

In January the Task Force will discuss hosting an award ceremony.

K Zullo motion to adjourn at 5:47 H Simko seconded, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zullo