

Litchfield SMART Task Force Meeting Minutes

Held at Litchfield Fire House

January 11, 2023

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

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

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

With two minor corrections in the minutes of the meeting held December 14, 2022, C Liley moved to accept the minutes as corrected, H Simko second, and all approved.

RECYCLING CENTER UPDATES

N Boccio shared updates from the RC.

The cash flow is going well, and the profit is being used to cover part-time employee expenses. The waste oil collection has been changed to drums. The website has been changed and the guidelines have been moved to the side. A new employee has been hired. N Boccio meet with USA Hauling about getting a MSW dumpster for the RC. J Geci will speak with Morris about how they run their system for allowing residents to drop off trash at their recycling center.

The MSW ordinance update which charges non-residential users to pay for their waste by weight has passed the Board of Selectman. After Board and Finance approval the ordinance will be presented and voted on at the town meeting on January 31st.

N Boccio reported to DEEP that the RC had 18.75 yards of food scraps, saving around \$300 for the last 6 months. Food scraps composting is still in its initial stages but is expected to grow in volume.

NOTES FROM CCSMM WEBINAR UPDATE

H Simko shared notes and ideas from the webinar. The town of West Hartford even had a Halloween costume exchange in October. She reminded us on the Center for Eco Technology (CET) resources. Kyle Harris did a very good job presenting how he and his students have introduced composting in the school cafeterias.

NEXT STEPS WITH SCHOOLS

N Boccio, K Harris, and D Raap will be meeting on Tuesday, January 24th with school representatives regarding implementing food scrap collection for composting in the schools. N Boccio noted that a vehicle will be needed to transport the food scraps. A part-time employee could do the pick-up but somehow the town has to supply a vehicle for this purpose.

L Losee offered to reach out the Litchfield Center School about initiating a composting program that could be integrated with a garden. He plans to talk to the principal and possibly the science coordinator.

RESTAURANTS UPDATE

C Liley suggested after the ordinance passes, the SMART Task Force should contact businesses with resources and tips for reducing their trash bills.

PROMOTION, PUBLICITY, AND NEWSLETTER

C Liley shared a new article for the newsletter. Anyone with ideas can write and send ideas to C Liley.

The group discussed hiring a part-time social media person to help with an education campaign.

To further promote the SMART mission to reduce trash by 10% C Liley built on a previous suggestion to have awards for businesses. We might want to involve the residents in voting businesses deserving recognition.

EARTH DAY PLANNING

Sustainable Litchfield will be holding an Earth Day event. N Boccio and K Zullo will coordinate with Sustainable Litchfield regarding cleaning up roadsides. The group will plan to have a table at the event. C Liley shared the idea of having a repair workshop where people could bring items that could be repaired on site.

OLD BUSINESS

J Geci talked with Lauren Mahieu at Ace Hardware, and they are still giving a 10% discount on buckets for composting.

J Geci spoke with Pricilla Jeffries, head of the Art Council, about doing a banner, but they are too busy. H Simko volunteered to help with getting a banner planned and made.

H Simko raised the idea of having a representative on LABA. She will start attending as a representative of the town.

D Wilson motion to adjourn at 5:35. S Mullen seconded. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zullo