

## Litchfield SMART Task Force Meeting Minutes

Held at Litchfield Fire House

February 8, 2023

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

Members Present: J Geci, K Zullo, C Liley, L Losse, S Mullen, H Simko

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

With typo correction, 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**

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, N Boccio and D Raap meet with K Harris at Litchfield High School. They will coordinate with public works to pick up food scraps on Wednesday and Saturday mornings and pick ups started last week. K Harris and N Boccio are discussing a cabinet to hold buckets with holes for liquid and food scraps.

N Boccio reports that the new employee, Rick, at the Recycling Center (RC) is working out well and that she has reached out to Stop and Shop to coordinate with plastic bag collection. The RC has a profit of \$16,775 and new sign. D Raap and N Boccio met with the town of Cornwall to share our procedures and guidance.

N Boccio met with Sustainable Litchfield to coordinate Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The event will be at the Litchfield Community Center. N Boccio has blue bags for recyclables and black bags for trash.

### **SCHOOL UPDATE**

K Harris, LHS AP Environmental Sciences teacher, reported that the cafeteria is using compostable trays and cutlery (the cutlery needs to be composted at a commercial facility). Two students from the AP Environmental Science class will be presenting to a subcommittee of the Board of Education with a proposal to return to reusable trays and cutlery.

The class is going to plan lessons for the Litchfield Center School students on composting. The day will start with lessons for the students and then the high school students will stay for the lunch period.

At the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, the schedule for pick up on the food scraps was decided.

### **FOOD RESCUE**

D Raap meet with Stacy Smith of Food Rescue US. They discussed saving the unopened, packaged food from the Litchfield schools. Food Rescue agreed that if students put the unopened food on a table, Food Rescue will go the schools and pick up the unopened food. D Raap has spoken with C Leone and he will be speaking to the school principals.

## **PASSAGE OF TRASH ORDINANCE**

J Geci suggested the group brainstorm on ways to be a resource for businesses. Next month the group will discuss. Some ideas suggested were:

- Button on website with ways for businesses to save.
- Attend LABA and share information.

## **SIGNAGE**

H Simko went to Wrightway signs to have a “Are you Composting Yet” banner and the RC. She shared three designs. The banners cost \$245 dollars. The group discussed the designs and decided on an option. S Mullen made the motion of cover the cost of the sign. K Zullo seconded. All approved.

## **REPORT ON VISIT TO MORRIS TRANSFER STATION**

J Geci visited the Morris Transfer station. He was impressed by the cleanliness and organization of the site. Any resident can bring trash to the transfer station. USA Hauling also brings the hauled trash to the transfer station and combines with the trash at the transfer station. It is paid through their taxes. N Boccio shared that Raz is concerned that taking trash at the transfer station would not be cost effective.

## **MEDIA COVERAGE AND PROMOTION**

The group discussed having a student manage social media communication. C Liley has a person in mind, but brought up the need to have the editorial calendar and ability to provide the information.

## **EARTH DAY PLANS**

The event will be from 9:00-12:00 on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the LCC. In the week before, the town will be collecting documents for shredding. H Simko offered to bring her sewing machine and do repairs during the event.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

H Simko will attend the next Litchfield Area Business Association meeting. J Geci met with Liz regarding small changes to the website.

C Liley motion to adjourn, K Zullo seconded, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zullo