

## Minutes of Meeting

### SMART Task Force

March 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jerry Geci at 4:05 p.m. in the Litchfield Fire house.

Present: J Geci, L Losee, H Simko, D Wilson, 1st Selectwoman Denise Raap, Town Recycling Coordinator Naomi Boccio, and LHS teacher Kyle Harris.

Reviewed and revised minutes of the February 8, 2023, meeting were approved unanimously upon motion of H Simko and second by D Wilson.

### UPDATE ON RECYCLING CENTER

Naomi reported that numerous attempts to talk with the manager of Stop & Shop about allowing plastic bags collected at the RC to be brought to S&S have been futile. J Geci volunteered to try to meet in person with the manager.

Naomi stated that the RC is operating at a profit of \$16,644 as of this date. She showed on a sheet that MSW and Sstream have gone every month except this past January.

Naomi distributed a recent CT DEEP brochure on Recycling at Apartments, Condos, Multi-family, and Businesses. H Simko will see that a copy of this brochure is shared with members of LABA and that a copy is placed in each welcome package distributed to new business owners. J Geci will see that a copy is sent with a letter to advise all non-residential entities of the ordinance on paying for trash by weight that goes into effect in July.

Naomi shared copies of the 2023 Recycling brochure. The updated brochure will be sent with tax bills. She was complimented on compiling the succinct single-page hand-out.

Naomi passed out photos of the recycling/compost cabinet that was built by town employees Tim Sullivan and Mitch Bodnar for use at LHS. According to K Harris the students are separating their left-overs and recyclables. So far 25 five-gallon pails of compost and 16 30-gallon bags of food trays have been saved from becoming trash.

### SCHOOL UPDATE

Kyle expressed pleasure in working with Naomi to get the cabinets built and told how well they were being implemented. He liked the construction which allowed for a backboard that could be used for signs and the removable and washable collars on the bin openings.

His presentation to the BOE was received enthusiastically concerning bins and composting. Still, there seems a slow reaction to eliminating the disposable trays which were not used last year. He and his students continue to push this effort to have washable/reusable trays.

Kyle plans to advertise Earth Day and to hand out to LHS students maps, trash bags, and gloves for the roadside clean-up. He is coordinating the signing up with Park and Rec Director, Michael Lynn Cappello.

Before Kyle left, J Geci thanked him for continuing to stay in close touch with SMART team by attending the monthly meetings.

## EARTH DAY PLANS

Naomi picked up Kyle's comments to say she had attended a recent meeting with SustainableLitchfield, and coordination is going well. Things had to be worked out with the Morris/Litchfield Rotary Club concerning vouchers for the Meraki food truck for people who help clean up. At the moment it appears that workers will be given a food voucher for \$7.

## SIGNAGE

J Geci thanked Helen for taking the time to research, help design, see to payment, and deliver the new BIG "Are You Composting Yet?" sign now on the gate-facing side of the RC. Task Force members wrote and spoke positively about it.

## OLD BUSINESS

With the approaching July date for the new waste-by-weight Ordinance in mind J Geci said he will compose a letter to non-residential entities advising them on the ramifications of its implementation and inviting them to take advantage of the SMART Task Force's ways of helping them cut back on the weight of their trash. Helen thought we should wait on any awards until the new ordinance was in effect for six months.

DEEP is offering a Sustainable Management Materials Grant that we ought to consider. Deadline is May 9th, but because it's first come-first served, it was said that some of us might meet to brainstorm ideas. Some mentioned were hiring a part-time worker for publicity, advanced marketing, and/or purchasing a tub grinder.

## NEW BUSINESS

Dave said he has observed that around home construction sites dumpsters are filled indiscriminately with recyclables - especially near the end of a job, lots of cardboard is thrown

in. Questions arose about who pays for the trash and where was it hauled and whether we might enforce separation of recyclables. Naomi will look into this.

There being no further business (other than thanking Lee for taking notes) Dave moved to adjourn, Helen seconded, and all were in favor at 5:15 p.m..

Respectfully submitted by J Geci