

## Litchfield SMART Task Force Meeting MINUTES

Held at the Banmtam Annex Meeting Room

August 9, 2023

Chairmen J Geci called meeting to order at 4:12.

Members present: J Geci, C Lilly, S Mullen, L Losee, H Simko, D Wilson; D Rapp, First Selectwoman; N Boccio, Public Works Liaison.

(Note: Before the meeting, members were happy to **welcome Naomi** back!)

The minutes of the July 12th meeting were accepted unanimously. Motion-C Lilly; 2nd-H Simko.

### **RECYLCING CENTER UPDATES**

Town has hired a new part-time employee to work at the Center. The majority of people have adapted to transporting their compost to the pile on top. A few people have asked that toters be available near the Center building. Maybe some accommodation could be made.

Earth Day statistics are not available, it is agreed that generally more people than ever before participated in the clean-up. Extra food vouchers for the volunteers had to be purchased in addition to those purchased by the Rotary Club.

### **LABA MEETING**

Helen reminded businesses owners that SMART is there to help. Helen will see that brochures on recycling and composting at the Center and bringing textiles to town containers are placed in the Welcome Bags distributed by LABA.

### **RECENT CONTACT WITH RESTAURANTS IN TOWN**

Shawn recently delivered 5-gallon pails to the owner of Petraroria who had asked Jerry for a couple to use for composting. No sign that he is composting; so, Jerry will speak to him soon. A number of restaurant owners are using vegetable left-overs to feed chickens.

### **PROMOTION, NEWSLETTER, PUBLICITY**

Chez asked for suggestions to her well-thought out, eye-catching, and spot-on newsletter on a number of crucial issues dealing with recycling. Jerry found it complete except for the last article which might mention the locations of the textile bins around town. Chez asked for ideas for her next newsletter. Jerry gave her a 2-page spread from Guido's that covers eliminating paper bags at the store.

On August 4th Denise received an email from Diane Field wanting to share a recent webinar on diverse projects used by Southbury and Fairfield to reduce food waste. The address is:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aqu5qMSA0Tc>.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The topic of supplying a pick-up for compostibles from restaurants was brought up. The town cannot use an employee or its equipment for private firms. Maybe some restaurants could collaborate on transportation or be encouraged to take their kitchen waste to farms.

The compactor and roll-offs in the public parking lot will not be moved until the hotel is completed.

The issue of reusable vs disposable trays at two of our schools was brought up, but discussion was tabled until Kyle Harris could attend.

### **FUTURE PROJECTS?**

A brainstorming session ensued:

Maybe we should be more aggressive about the use of plastic in our stores and restaurants. Chez shared a web site: [plasticfreerestaurants.org](http://plasticfreerestaurants.org). Should we work towards a town-wide ban on black plastic items? Approach businesses about what they do with cardboard.

Run workshops and circulate info on composting at home.

Have a big promotion campaign for the Swap Shop at the Center so people know they can recycle furniture and so much more.

Motioned by Shawn and seconded by Helen the meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

J Geci (with gratitude to LLoosee who took notes.)