

Litchfield SMART Task Force Meeting Minutes

Held at Public Works

October 11, 2023

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

Members Present: J Geci, K Zullo, L Losee, C Liley, D Wilson

Attending: D Raap, First Selectwoman, N Boccio, Public Works Liaison; B Seamans, Assistant Supervisor of Public Works, D Butwill

With correction of misspelling of "Losee" and correction of the date the minutes of September meeting were approved. L Losee motioned, C Liley second, all approved.

SCHOOL UPDATE

K Harris, LHS AP Environmental Sciences teacher could not attend, but sent the following notes:

- The Environmental Club is re-teaching composting next week during all lunch waves.
- Students will be meeting with administration to try to establish monthly recycling events so teachers can recycle old papers without having to worry about it going into the trash. Students will also be working with administration to separate old technology from the other waste so it can be recycled. Our tech employee has a contact for a company that comes when we need them to.
- Recycling audit will be completed next week - we have been dealing with some absences and student follow-thru issues so we came up with an organized schedule. We have created signs to put above all recycling bins to show students what should go in the bin. This will include the phrase "When in doubt, throw it out."
- K-cups and batteries are being collected.
- A survey has been created to collect data about how students recycle, compost, and where their families get information from so we can target those areas. This will be given the week of October 23rd.
- Still working on the cafeteria concerns... but not giving up.

RECYCLING CENTER UPDATES

Bobby is cleaning up the Recycling Center and will be encouraging the use of stickers.

Profit for the first quarter of the fiscal year was \$10,000; so, the RC is operating in the black. Naomi shared the impact of removing commercial properties from the tipping fee: the July-September average from the previous three years was 482 tons of MSW. This year the three-month tonnage was 239 tons; there was a 50.36% reduction.

The group discussed how to measure reaching the goal of a 10% reduction in MSW now that commercial properties have been removed from the tipping rolls. A few months must pass before comparisons can be made. Figures are needed for the compostables coming into the RC.

LABA MEMBERSHIP

The group will postpone LABA discussion until H Simko is back.

RESTAURANT UPDATE

J Geci met with Frankie from Petraroia Deli and talked about how to get composting restarted. N Boccio and D Raap put together a list of restaurant owners. The group discussed how to communicate best with restaurants. For our next meeting C Liley will write a draft for an initial letter to send to restaurant owners.

NEWSLETTER AND PROMOTION

J Geci spoke with Berta at LCC who is willing to promote reducing trash possibly sending out information to people on the LCC email list. We can also leave brochures at the LCC for people to pick up.

WZBG was offering \$175 a week to do blasts to get the word out for composting. The group considered planning when to buy ad space - probably in weeks leading up to Earth Day.

C Liley's wrote another edition of the newsletter which will include information on Hazardous Waste Day and what's in/what's out for recycling.

J Geci and K Zullo spoke with K Harris' AP Environmental Science classes. The talk went well and, while many students do recycle at home, there is a lot of education that is needed about what can and cannot be composted.

K Zullo made a scarecrow for the *Scarecrows in the Meadow* event. The Scarecrow is "Lowly Worm" from Busytown and will be educating about and encouraging composting.

NEW BUSINESS

J Geci will speak with Dawn from Westport about the town's steps to eliminate single-use plastic.

OLD BUSINESS

J Geci praised Naomi for the 2023 Recycling list noting that the re-design is much easier to read.

5:16 Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zullo