

Litchfield SMART Task Force Meeting Minutes

Held at Public Works

December 13, 2023

Chairman J Geci called the meeting to order at 4:07 pm.

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

Attending: N Boccio, Public Works Liaison; K Harris, Litchfield High School AP Environmental Science

MINUTES

K Zullo motion to approve minutes from October 11, 2023. D Wilson seconded, all approved.

UPDATE FROM SCHOOL

K Harris reported on the progress at the High School. The schools will be improving recycling starting in January with the support of the new facilities manager. Students are creating new recycling signage and procedures to have things recycled. One student conducted a recycling bin audit and found that in one week of monitoring 10 bins, there were only three instances of contamination out of the 50 bins checked.

The students will be monitoring composting in the high school lunchroom for the first three weeks in January to encourage students to reinforce good composting habits for the rest of the year.

J Geci asked if the students had done any surveys of the students. K Harris shared that a survey will be done at the start of the new year. J Geci shared flyers that can be shared with the students.

K Zullo shared that on January 27th, the Litchfield Community Center will be hosting a January community event, the Fire & Ice Fun Fest, and offered to organize a table for the SMART Task Force. K Harris will reach out to the Environmental Club to see if any students would be able to help staff the table.

UPDATE FROM THE RECYLING CENTER

N Boccio reports that Bobby has made a lot of progress on cleaning and has enlarged the swap shop. The new ordinance has helped lessen contractors bringing in material. The walkway project has been postponed to next summer.

The group discussed the cost and feasibility of sending a flyer on what the recycling center accepts to households. The group felt that waiting until July to send a flyer with the tax bills would be most cost effective.

N Boccio also shared the 2024 meeting schedule. K Zullo motion to accept, C Liley seconded, all approved.

REPORT ON LABA MEETING

The group will discuss LABA when H Simko is back.

WORKING WITH RESTAURANT OWNERS AND OTHER BUSINESSES

D Wilson has seen Stonybrook and N Boccio shared that the road sanders are using used food oil to lubricate the chains.

PROMOTION, NEWSLETTER, AND PUBLICITY

C Liley brought up that the name SMART does not intuitively bring people looking for recycling information to the correct website. C Liley brought up the idea of having an independent website. The group will research other communities' websites before the next meeting. The group looked at the newsletter and discussed how to disseminate it.

K Zullo would like to organize a post-Halloween event for community members to bring their pumpkins to an event to in which they can smash their pumpkins and then have them brought to the municipal compost. N Boccio suggested having the event at the Recycling Center to encourage people to come to the center and increase familiarity with the facility. K Zullo will work on organizing the event.

NEW BUSINESS

J Geci spoke to the town of Westport regarding their ordinance regarding single use plastics and received a copy of the ordinance.

Rocco Carting is now offering hauling services in Litchfield. They will be in contact with N Boccio regarding pricing.

D Wilson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 pm. K Zullo seconded. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zullo

Secretary