

## Litchfield SMART Task Force Meeting Minutes

Held at Public Works

March 13, 2024

Chairman J Geci called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm.

Members Present: J Geci, K Zullo, S Mullen, D Wilson

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

### **MINUTES**

Motion: S Mullen motion to approve minutes from February 2024. D Wilson seconded, all approved.

### **UPDATE FROM THE RECYLING CENTER**

N Boccio shared the recycling report with the profit from last fiscal year and year to date. She also shared statistics on the last 4 years of municipal solid waste and single stream recycling. N Boccio is putting together an information brochure to put in resident's tax bill. N Boccio also reached out to shipping companies to learn that packing peanuts cannot be reused. Rocco will not be reporting directly to Naomi, but will be reporting to

Namoi reports that the schools composting has declined, and the amount of compost being brought to the Recycling Center is lower than hoped. The "compostable" bags people use are blowing off the pile. Staff at the Recycling Center needs to do proper record keeping and proper maintenance of the compost pile.

### **EARTH DAY**

N Boccio reports that the Rotary Club will contribute \$350 for food for the volunteers, which will fund \$7 vouchers for each person to purchase a sandwich from Litchfield Catering. If more than 50 volunteers take part, the task force will fund the extra from the Nipper fund.

Motion: S Mullen motioned to allocate money for up to 25 extra vouchers. D Wilson seconded, all approved.

N Boccio has ordered vests, gloves, and bags. Volunteers will sign up using MyRec to sign up. J Geci confirmed that the SMART Task Force will have a table at the Sustainable Litchfield Earth Day event. N Boccio will provide brochures for distribution at the event.

The Northfield textile bin needs to be moved because of dumping at the site. N Boccio has spoken to Clothes Tree about relocating to their property.

K Zullo and J Geci shared thoughts on surveying participants at Earth Day before giving them composting buckets. J Geci reported that he purchased 100 buckets from Ace Hardware for \$318.

## **LABA MEETING MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>**

J Geci will not be able to attend the March LABA meeting.

### **WORKING WITH RESTAURANTS OWNERS AND OTHER BUSINESSES**

J Geci spoke with Dowling Toyota and Lauren Mahieu from Ace Hardware regarding their waste and the different waste removal practices they use. Dowling reported they did not feel a significant impact when paying their own tipping fees. Mahieu shared that she did notice an increase in cost with the tipping fees.

B Seamans is working on the toolkit for restaurants.

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

J Geci shared that the name SMART does not communicate the purpose of the task force and shared names that other towns use. The group will think about alternative names to discuss at the next meeting.

The group discussed the creation of posters including - a composting flyer with instructions, a recycling information flyer, ways to use coffee groups flyer.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The group discussed the award to be presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to reducing waste in town. The group chose an individual and decided to present a certificate and gift certificate at the Earth Day event.

Motion: K Zullo made a motion to allocate \$100 for a certificate from Litchfield Pizza for the award. D Wilson seconded, all approved.

J Geci ended the meeting at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Zullo

Secretary