

Sustainable Litchfield Committee



Special Meeting

11:00 am Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Bantam Annex

MINUTES

REMOTE MEETING BY LIVE INTERNET VIDEO STREAM AND TELEPHONE

Call to Order – 11:14am

In attendance: Carrie Szwed, Dean Birdsall, Cathleen Wyse, Daniela Larsson, 1st Selectman Denise Raap, Guests from CT DEEP Kristen Brown and Tory McBrien

The Waste Reduction Committee “Pay As You Throw” Program and Award

- Kristen and Tory from WasteZero, Inc. organization presented on the Pay-As-You-Throw program
 - Unit-based pricing is an incentive for people to think differently about their trash
 - CT DEEP Sustainable Materials Management grant was awarded to Litchfield for a unit-based pricing food scrap collection program
 - By 2041, New England will be out of capacity to dispose of any trash
 - CT already ships out 60% of their trash to other states
 - CT goal is 60% diversion rate of food material
 - Unit-based pricing is the single most effective way to reduce amount of trash produced.
 - Unit-based = “pay-as-you-throw” (i.e., when you have to pay for what you throw, you think more critically about how much you put in your trash as opposed to diverting to compost, recycling, donation, etc.)
 - Now there will be an option to drop off your trash at the recycling center instead of paying a hauler – will need to pay for a special bag and the weight of your trash, but it will be considerable less than the hauler
 - Can also still bring your compost to station for free
 - Need about a 6.5% home participation rate to make program sustainable (247 homes)
 - Waste Reduction Committee distributed a flyer asking for people’s opinions about unit-based trash disposal; 49% of respondents said they WERE interested in participating
 - Litchfield will get savings from reducing tipping fees AND revenue from bags
 - Will get at least 10 points (likely more) for submitting any waste reduction initiatives to Sustainable CT

Adjournment – 12:20am

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Szwed