

**Recycling Incentive Grant Committee Meeting
Minutes
May 27, 2014**

Present: First Selectwoman Bonnie Reemsnyder, Mary Jo Nosal, Gary Yuknat, Lou Russo, Janice Ehlemeyer, Cathy Frank, Leslie O'Connor, Brenda Moriarty

Absent: Bob Gentile, J Ranelli, Jim Ward, Sam Fuchs, Tom Gotowka, Paul Gleason

Selectwoman Mary Jo Nosal called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Janice Ehlemeyer, seconded by Brenda Moriarty, to approve the minutes of May 14. Motion passed.

Updates

Mary Jo reported that she had been in touch with DSM with questions raised at the previous meeting. DSM's e-mailed response was distributed at the meeting.

DSM has asked to make a presentation to a joint Board of Selectmen/Board of Finance meeting. Tuesday, June 17 is a possible meeting date.

A Resolution supporting unit based pricing (UBP) is needed from the Board of Selectmen before the Town will be eligible for the grant funding. We have been granted an extension from the DEEP for the Resolution which was due May 1.

Bonnie & Mary Jo expect the DSM presentation to offer a balanced argument for UBP to the BOS and BOF, and to include different UBP options. They believe the DSM presentation will help answer some of the questions raised by Board of Selectmen/Finance members.

Gary believes it will be possible for us to realize the goal of incentivizing recycling in order to reduce trash/solid waste costs through education alone.

A resident recently asked him about accepting shredded paper in single stream recycling: the Willimantic Waste website states it is not acceptable.

Other topics raised by committee members included composting, brush and bulky waste pick ups.

Old Lyme used to provide bulky waste pick ups at no charge every spring. Some towns continue to offer bulky pick ups by appointment and/or at a fee. Old Lyme used to provide brush & leaf pick up in the spring and fall.

Residents can now bring bulky waste, brush & leaves to the Transfer Station for a fee. We have just started leaf composting at the Transfer Station.

Committees; Reports

Mary Jo was hoping the Communications committee would meet to draft Survey questions. Can we ask DSM to help us develop questions for the Survey?

Mary Jo would like to invite other boards & commissions (e.g. EDC, Conservation) to the DSM presentation. Committee members agreed it was important to disseminate information to the community about the committee's discussions about increasing recycling in our town. Brenda mentioned other community groups (Junior Women, Duck River Garden Club) who will also be helpful in getting information out to members of the community. We will need to reach out to the different beach associations with the Survey.

Bonnie suggested that if we cannot agree to pursue UBP (for grant funding eligibility), we will need to ask the Board of Finance to begin budgeting funds annually for recycling education. We only have 5 more years of curbside pickup with Gary's company (the final year of current contract + 4 years under new contract) and we need people to start thinking about the next step.

If we are focusing on a 4 year plan, we will want to establish clear goals and objectives for that period.

At 5:15pm, Mary Jo phoned DSM.

- Ted & Natalie do not expect to be available on June 17. They can confirm in early June. They suggested July 15 for the joint meeting with BOS/BOF.
- Natalie contacted Mansfield and asked questions about their cart based UBP program. Residents are billed quarterly depending on the size of the cart they use. Approximately 4,000 households are served. Their recycling rate is 37 to 40% and they average 94 lb of trash per household per month. Mansfield has added a staff member to administer the program and handle the billing. DSM will estimate potential administrative costs for a UBP program in Old Lyme and add them to their cost projections.
- DSM will develop a "top ten" FAQ list for the committee to use. More specific FAQs can be added as we move forward.

- DSM also agreed to assist with the development of the survey questions. They will send examples of survey questions to Mary Jo, who will forward to committee members for review. Committee members need to decide on the most valuable information/important data they hope to glean from the survey. We have announced the survey in the summer Old Lyme Events, which will be mailed to residents in mid-June.
- Mary Jo has asked for a closer examination of our Transfer Station costs: should the charges be increased and how should an increase be determined?
- Mary Jo asked if DSM could recommend stages for a 4 year plan and project savings over that time period. DSM agreed to do that. Gary suggested using 3.5% as the annual anticipated increase in costs.
- Things to consider: Middletown, RI and many Massachusetts towns bill annually for trash collection. DSM pointed out that annual or quarterly billing for carts offers a different kind of incentive than requiring bag purchase. The bags are a constant reminder of the cost to dispose of trash – and an incentive to recycle more.
- DSM offered to continue to read meeting minutes and offer comments/answer questions. In addition to making a presentation to the BOS and BOF, Ted & Natalie will be in town to do some additional research on trash and recycling in our seasonal beach areas.

Committee members agreed that the June survey offers an opportunity to educate residents as well as gather information from them. Ideally, the survey will consist of 12 questions and take only 2 to 3 minutes to complete. We would like to have it in hand by June 15.

The next Recycling Committee meetings are scheduled for 4:30pm on Wednesday, June 11 and June 25.

A motion was made by Lou, seconded by Mary Jo, to adjourn at 6pm.

Cathy Frank

5/28/14