

**Town of Old Lyme  
Recycling Incentive Grant Committee Agenda  
Old Lyme Memorial Town Hall  
Meeting Hall  
Wednesday, March 19, 2014 7PM**

Present: Bob Gentile, Bonnie Reemsnyder (First Selectwoman), Sam Fuchs, Mary Jo Nosal (Selectwoman), Jim Ward, Gary Yuknat (Shoreline Sanitation), Paul Gleason, Louis Russo, Thomas Gotowka, Cathy Frank

Absent/unable to attend initial meeting: Brenda Moriarty, Leslie O'Connor, J Ranelli; Janice Ehlemeyer (RiverCOG)

**Welcome and Introductions**

Selectwoman Mary Jo Nosal distributed Ethics Acknowledgement forms to committee members. This is a requirement of all who volunteer for a Town board, commission or committee.

**Grant Overview and Committee Charge**

Selectwoman Nosal reviewed the Recycling Incentive Grant which has been awarded to the Town. Copies of the Grant application and Grant instructions were distributed. The main purpose of the grant is to help the Town incentivize recycling in order to drive down trash tonnage.

Old Lyme has been awarded \$25,000+ to cover the following expenses:

- Consulting services with DSM Environmental, which has a current contract with the State DEEP, for up to \$20,000
- Reimbursement of expenses for UBP (unit based pricing) bags or tags for solid waste; education and promotional materials for households up to \$16,000

DSM Environmental is currently working with data provided by Cathy to project potential trash reduction from a curbside UBP program. The consultants will be available via phone or in person to work with the committee on the recycling incentive program.

Cathy Frank recounted some of the information provided at a recycling incentive workshop she attended as a prerequisite to the grant application. Pay as You Throw (PAYT) Trash Bags were identified as a key component toward UPB.

Bob Gentile works in Stonington which currently requires use of the PAYT trash bags. Stonington's curbside pick up is not automated, so it is easy to check for compliance.

Last year, Old Lyme was notified by Willimantic Waste, which collects single stream recycling from our Transfer Station, that our recycling contained large quantities of trash.

Gary Yuknat expressed his concern that the use of PAYT bags would lead to even more problems. If recycling pick up is free but trash pick up requires bags that a resident has to purchase, he suspects that some residents will place both trash and recycling in the recycling bin. How the Town would enforce a PAYT bag program should be a major consideration.

Committee members raised many issues to be considered as recycling incentives are explored, including:

- Seasonal visitors/renters are not familiar with our trash & recycling schedules and regulations; it is the property owners' responsibility to provide clear instructions
- Many residents are unclear about what they can recycle
- We currently charge same price for additional trash and recycling containers; workshop suggested charging more for trash than for recycling
- The cost of each bag could be promoted as an incentive (e.g. if cost starts at \$1 each, cost would decrease as trash tonnage is reduced)
- Savings due to trash reduction could be shown as a tax credit
- Important for school age students to get behind the effort; hopefully middle school student Sam Fuchs can help with ideas for student involvement and potential benefit to the school(s)
- Getting information to residents is crucial
- Gary/Shoreline can dump a trash load and sort through it to illustrate the realities of our waste stream
- We can produce a public access "commercial" on recycling and reducing the waste stream; LOLHS has video classes that might get involved
- Gary did some quick math and estimated that the cost of 2 bags per week for each household would equal \$130,000 annually. Would that cost/potential savings be enough to encourage people to reduce trash without the use of PAYT bags?
- Paul Gleason suggested that national publications on recycling might produce some ideas for the committee. He will let Bonnie know the name(s) of publications he receives.
- Transfer Station fees have not increased (for furniture, carpeting, appliances) in many years. Should these costs be adjusted to reflect the actual cost of disposal?
- Can the Town provide a place at the Transfer Station for residents to deposit additional trash? This might be useful for weekenders who would like to dispose of trash on their way out of town.
- What is the size of the bags? Bob G. said that Stonington's bags come in 2 sizes.

**Discuss Sub Committees/Assignments**

Three basic issues appear to be Education, Implementation and Enforcement. The committee may split into sub-groups to focus on these areas once a plan is determined.

Cathy will send committee members the actual numbers (tonnage) of the Town's recycling and trash for the past couple of years. She will also send the proposed Scope of Work received from DSM Environmental which further explains the Grant and the committee's responsibilities.

**Choose next meetings dates/times**

The committee members agreed to meet every two weeks initially.

The next scheduled meetings are:

**Wednesday, April 2, 4:30pm**

**Wednesday, April 16, 4:30pm**

**Other Business**

Mary Jo asked that committee members submit questions/concerns about UBP to Cathy at [selectmansoffice@oldlyme-ct.gov](mailto:selectmansoffice@oldlyme-ct.gov).

The comments will be shared with DSM Environmental.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Cathy Frank

3/21/14