

**Town of Old Lyme  
Recycling Incentive Grant Committee  
April 2, 2014 4:30pm**

Present: Bob Gentile, Bonnie Reemsnyder (First Selectwoman), Sam Fuchs, Mary Jo Nosal (Selectwoman), Jim Ward, Gary Yuknat (Shoreline Sanitation), Louis Russo, Thomas Gotowka, Cathy Frank, Brenda Moriarty, Leslie O'Connor, Janice Ehlemeyer (RiverCOG)  
Absent/unable to attend: J Ranelli, Paul Gleason

**Welcome and Introductions**

Selectwoman Mary Jo Nosal distributed Ethics Acknowledgement forms to committee members Leslie O'Connor and Brenda Moriarty. This is a requirement of all who volunteer for a Town board, commission or committee.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Jim Ward, seconded by Louis Russo to approve the minutes of the March 19 meeting. Motion passed.

**Grant Overview and Committee Charge**

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

**Discuss-Review questions/concerns for consultants**

DSM Environmental is currently working with the Town's trash and recycling data to project potential trash reduction and savings from a curbside UBP program.

A special meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 10 at 4:30 pm for the committee to meet with the consultants. Representatives from the DEEP will also be invited.

Some questions and concerns were presented at the initial committee meeting. Mary Jo asked Brenda to re-send questions she emailed so they can be submitted to DSM in advance of the meeting.

Committee members raised additional questions for consideration:

- Are there other UBP (unit based pricing) options available to us other than bags?

Janice Ehlemeyer recounted that one RiverCOG town used to have a PAYT program. Cathy distributed a sheet detailing the State Law(s) that pertain to municipality, contractor, commercial, & resident responsibilities with regard to trash and recycling. Committee members reiterated that some residents may not realize that recycling is not optional.

A handout on Recycling Incentives provides an overview of different recycling incentive options.

- Are any other towns in Connecticut with automated programs using PAYT bags?

Based upon data on the DEEP website, it does not seem so. DSM recently consulted with Middletown, Rhode Island – adjacent to Newport – and they are using PAYT with automated collection.

- Will the Town's current Transfer Station Permit allow placement of a receptacle for household trash?

This needs to be confirmed.

### **"Let's Talk Trash" summary**

Mary Jo updated the committee on a seminar she & Cathy attended that was hosted by DEEP Deputy Commissioner Macky McLeary. The event took place at the Trash Museum in Hartford. The DEEP plans to host a number of Let's Talk Trash events over the next few months and we have suggested that one take place in Old Lyme. Mary Jo was able to ask questions about the Recycling Grant and timeline. The State's goal is to increase its recycling to 60% by 2024.

Question:

- How are the percentages derived?

Gary suggested we look at our tonnage now for recycling, and compare it to when single stream began. We can pull invoices from Willimantic Waste (recycling) and CRRA (tonnage) and set up our own spreadsheet to get a sense of the waste & recycling generated in town.

This month, Old Lyme was notified by CRRA that a trash load contained a significant amount of recycling. Gary Yuknat explained that this happened when a trash route truck was temporarily out of service and the driver was unaware that the replacement truck had picked up a half load of recycling. Gary has addressed this with CRRA.

This topic led to a broad discussion of trash & recycling in Old Lyme.

Mary Jo had a conversation with people from Bethel who described a school campaign there that involved "feeding the dragon" with recycling.

- Could we send a recycling message through participation in the Memorial Day Parade?

Shoreline Sanitation picks up trash daily from the school district but recycling is handled by a different contractor. Leslie O'Connor said students in the Life Skills program at the high school separate out "for deposit" containers from school recycling. Refunded deposits are used by Life Skills.

Leslie and Sam questioned the trays and containers used in the school lunch program. Hard plastic trays are sometimes used, but disposable trays are also provided on some days. The lunch program is provided by an outside contractor.

Committee members concurred that the schools would be a good place to focus efforts when raising awareness of recycling issues. Janice has visited schools in our region with a “recycling contest” that has been well-received.

Gary repeated his suggestion that Shoreline can dump a trash load and sort through it to illustrate what constitutes our household waste.

Bonnie raised the issue of differences between a product that is recyclable and one that is environmentally-friendly. Old Lyme’s Board of Finance was not receptive to the idea of PAYT bags and asked if the bags would be biodegradable. She asked Bob Gentile if the PAYT bags used by Stonington are recyclable. Bob believes they determined that biodegradable bags are not as durable and may be more costly. WasteZero, one of the companies that supplies PAYT bags, does list biodegradable bags as an option.

Committee members again expressed concern about the community’s response if we introduce PAYT bags. Brenda was less concerned, stating that since she buys bags anyway, it would not be an imposition for her to buy official Town PAYT bags instead.

Committee members agreed that there are many unanswered questions and that the most important element will be education and clearly defining the pros and cons of recycling more.

### **Other Business**

Bob asked about paint recycling and Janice updated the committee on new paint recycling initiatives in our region.

Cathy will work with Gary on gathering information about recycling and trash for a spreadsheet comparison. Mary Jo asked that committee members submit questions/concerns asap to her ([maryjonosal@gmail.com](mailto:maryjonosal@gmail.com)) or to Cathy at [selectmansoffice@oldlyme-ct.gov](mailto:selectmansoffice@oldlyme-ct.gov). The comments will be shared with DSM Environmental.

The next scheduled committee meetings are: **Thursday, April 10, 4:30pm**

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

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Gary, seconded by Leslie. Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Cathy Frank

4/3/14