

**Town of Old Lyme Recycling Incentive Grant Committee Minutes  
Wednesday April 30, 2014 4:30PM**

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

Absent/unable to attend: Paul Gleason, Sam Fuchs

**Welcome**

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

**Grant Requirements**

Mary Jo distributed a status sheet (attached), updating the committee on recent discussions and suggestions.

The Board of Selectmen did not pass the Resolution required for the grant at their most recent meeting. A Resolution is a pre-requisite for receipt of grant funding. However, the Town has been granted an extension for the Resolution. The Committee can continue to work with consultants from DSM. The official Grant Contract will be signed after a Resolution is passed.

Natalie Starr of DSM offered to develop FAQ (frequently asked questions) sheet(s) which the committee and Town can use in their education efforts. Mary Jo has forwarded to Natalie a list of questions developed by the Committee to date. She will continue to submit topics/questions to DSM.

First Selectwoman Reemsnyder addressed the Resolution issue from the perspective of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Sibley was concerned that a Resolution adopting a UBP goal may be premature until we have input from the public. Bonnie spoke about the importance of providing information to the Old Lyme community about the mission of the committee.

One question that continues to surface is: are there UBP (unit based pricing) options other than PAYT bags? Revisiting fees at the Transfer Station where the Town already has UBP in place is an option, however, the grant application specifically requested funding to expand UBP in the Town to its curbside collection program.

Leslie O'Connor reminded committee members to bear in mind that our common goal is to "encourage people to recycle more." Members reiterated both a cost and an environmental benefit to increased recycling.

Mary Jo asked the committee to consider how much of an extension (for the BOS resolution) we need. Many thought 3 months would suffice. Gary Yuknat (Shoreline Sanitation) thought 6 months, and also suggested investigating why the Town of East Lyme had abandoned its use of the PAYT bags. Gary also recounted a call he received this week from a resident wanted to trade in green recycling can for an additional blue trash can "because he doesn't recycle."

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Ideas surfaced by members included:

- Scaling down the size of trash cans (to drive down volume of trash)
- The need to fairly charge people for trash they produce (ie treating trash pick up as a utility)
- Important to provide the community information about why increasing recycling (through PAYT/UBP) is beneficial
- Need to provide the DEEP reason(s) why the Town is requesting an extension for BOS Resolution
- We need more information on Transfer Station operations: permitting and fees

Jim Ward made a motion, seconded by Janice Ehlemeyer, to form 2 sub-committees: one to perform data collection and one to develop educational/communication materials. Motion passed unanimously.

Bob Gentile asked if committee members would like him to invite Winston Averill of SCRRRA (<http://scrrra.org/>) to attend a future meeting. Bob has contacted him with questions about other municipalities using PAYT bags with an automated pick up system: Old Lyme would be the first. Averill has first-hand experience with recycling and PAYT programs in other towns that he would be happy to share. Members agreed this would be beneficial.

Sub-committees met for 10+ minutes:

Education/Communication – Tom Gotowka, Leslie O’Connor, Jim Ward, Brenda Moriarty, J Ranelli

Data Collection – Janice Ehlemeyer, Gary Yuknat, Louis Russo, Bob Gentile

Jim Ward summarized information the Education committee believes is important to present to the community:

- Expressing the common goal -- to increase recycling
- Identifying where we are and where we want to be
- Providing data about the regulations and the actual cost per person for trash/recycling collection
- Establishing a timeline
- Using an info-graphic for a visual aid
- Giving a goal to the Town – possibly starting a competition
- Providing precise info about what should go in blue/green container(s)

The Data Collection committee summarized the information they plan to acquire:

- Quantifying current curbside pick-up: Gary will be using truck counters on the 10 different routes to determine # of cans per route and weight per route. That data can lead to an estimate of average weight per can, approximation of the percentage of recycling participation in town, and an estimate of the cost per can per pick up
- Trash & Recycling tonnage and expense (already provided on previously distributed spreadsheet)
- Consideration of “amnesty weekends” for yard waste and/or bulky waste

## Recycling Incentive Grant Committee

Bob Gentile will invite Winston Averill to attend the next meeting: Wednesday, May 14 at 4:30.

Sub-committees will present updates at that meeting.

Subcommittees are asked to email Mary Jo ([maryjonosal@gmail.com](mailto:maryjonosal@gmail.com)) with questions for DSM and email Cathy ([selectmansoffice@oldlyme-ct.gov](mailto:selectmansoffice@oldlyme-ct.gov)) if they need any data from the Town. Contact Cathy to reserve a meeting room.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Brenda, seconded by Janice. Meeting adjourned at 6 PM.

The next scheduled committee meeting is: **Wednesday, May 14, 4:30pm**

Cathy Frank

5/2/14