

Recycling Incentive Grant Committee Minutes  
November 12, 2014

Present: Louis Russo, Leslie O'Connor, Selectwoman Mary Jo Nosal, Bob Gentile, Brenda Moriarty, Tom Gotowka, Janice Ehlemeyer, First Selectwoman Bonnie Reemsnyder, Jim Ward. Absent: J Ranelli, Gary Yuknat, Cathy Frank

Selectwoman Nosal convened the meeting at 5:04pm

**Presentation by Kristen Brown 10/29/14**

The committee members who attended the presentation were polled for their feedback on the presentation. Favorable comments included: acknowledgement that the Town has to start moving forward given the mandated State recycling goal and our trash contract expiry; that the State is moving in a Unit Based Pricing(UBP) or bag Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) direction; the administrative needs of a PAYT program being managed by an external company simplifies the program for municipalities; paying for the bag is an incentive for recycling; increased recycling reduces tipping fees; savings returned to the public as a tax rebate along with data that shows how the program is increasing recycling and saving money would be important. Concerns were raised about: the reliability of the data presented both in terms of financial benefit and outcome; the use of plastic bags; program implementation; the continued need for education and enforcement; comparison of results with other methods besides a bag program; the unknown cost or contract requirements of working with a bag vendor; and audio visual problems made the talk less impressive.

Some individuals expressed interest in visiting Middletown, RI and Falls River, MA as suggested by Ms. Brown to assess enforcement, cart and bag use, outcome data, and review their ordinances.

Additional discussion:

- It was noted that as a town we are doing pretty well with recycling. Often, the focus of our discussions has been on offenders vs. the majority of residents who do the right thing. Other towns reward those who recycle with a point system for benefits at local businesses.
- Improvements in technology (cameras, barcodes, etc.) will make enforcement at the pick-up site more feasible and the hauler can take immediate action at the curb.
- Recycling requirements can be an insert with the tax bill.
- The current focus of communicating with people is to push out information vs. static web site use
- The town's solid waste ordinance needs updating and communicating to residents. This will part of the charge for a standing recycling committee.

- Leslie O'Connor has applied for a local education grant to start a recycling program in District 18 with the goal of increasing recycling to 60%. The committee applauded her efforts.

### **Recycling Grant Committee Charge**

Mary Jo informed the committee of her discussion with Chris Nelson of the DEEP on 10/16. He suggested we meet with Kristen. He indicated that the DEEP would be rolling out a new grant program for 4-5 towns to implement a UBP program with Kristen's help. He said Old Lyme could re-apply.

The committee agreed to stand by their recommendations to the Board of Selectmen to (1) not proceed with the current DEEP grant opportunity which requires a town wide implementation of UBP within a year of a resolution and (2) recommend that a standing waste management committee be established that will focus on increasing recycling and decreasing trash which may include UBP (which we have at the transfer stations), and will include a public education campaign to increase recycling and decrease trash and (3) recommend that the Town budget the for education and outreach efforts. No addendums were considered.

Motion by Leslie O'Connor to disband the committee as the charge is completed.  
Second by Janice.

Discussion: a new standing committee will review the solid waste ordinance and recommend changes (e.g., enforcement) and updates to the Board of Selectmen. At some point the new committee would consider their standing (committee or commission). Current committee member's suggestions regarding a charge for the new standing committee were encouraged as was applications for the new standing committee. Leslie and Louis agreed to bring the recommendations to the 11-17-14 Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Motion passed with no abstention or dissent.

Members discussed the positive outcomes of the committee, primarily the awareness of recycling concerns.

### **Approval of Minutes from 9/24/14**

Motion to approve by Louis, second by Leslie. No discussion. Motion passed.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Mary Jo Nosal  
11/13/14