

**Town of Old Lyme Recycling Incentive Grant Committee Minutes
Meeting of Wednesday April 16, 2014 4:30PM**

Present: Bob Gentile, Bonnie Reemsnyder (First Selectwoman), Sam Fuchs, Mary Jo Nosal (Selectwoman), Louis Russo, Brenda Moriarty

Absent/unable to attend: J Ranelli, Paul Gleason, Jim Ward, Gary Yuknat (Shoreline Sanitation), Cathy Frank, Leslie O'Connor, Thomas Gotowka, Janice Ehlemeyer (RiverCOG)

Welcome

Meeting called to order at 4:40PM. There was no quorum, so no motions were made.

Grant Overview and Committee Charge

The committee discussed incentivizing recycling through unit-based-pricing (UBP), education, events and games.

Discuss-Review questions/concerns for consultants

Mary Jo provided a list of questions and comments gathered over our sessions (attached) and requested feedback for our consultants. Also provided was information from the Twin Cities recycling programs. Minneapolis is moving towards a curb side organic pick-up (not attached).

Bonnie noted that UBP is a means to begin treating our waste costs we do utilities. With Pay As You Throw (PAYT) households are responsible for what they throw out and do not subsidize higher producers of trash. She added that the town will most likely have one more four year contract with Shoreline Sanitation. As the DSM consultants pointed out last week, we have a very good deal. At that point our costs would probably be much higher.

Bonnie requested that the committee consider recommending a UBP incentive program to the Board of Selectmen (BOS). The BOS will need to adopt a resolution for this as required by the grant at their meeting of 4/21/14.

The members reviewed some of the findings shared with us by DSM on 4-10-14. Of interest was the reduction in trash production in the winter, and the trash peaks in the spring and summer. Some of the causes of the peaks were thought to be a result of Storm Sandy clean-up, DSM suggested possible organics in the waste stream, and need to educate summer visitors about the recycling requirements and to assure that landlords have the tools to make this part of the rental process.

Louis noted that if we do not know what is in our trash, how can we improve? It was discussed that we do not yet know what our primary sources of garbage is. However, the discussion focused on plastics.

Sam suggested that enforcement was important and that it was important to avoid incineration.

Committee members raised additional questions/thoughts for consideration:

- Are there other UBP (unit based pricing) options available to us other than bags?
- Consider speaking with Middletown, RI and Manchester, CT and Prince Edwards Island about their programs.
- Review ordinances e.g. Brenda noted that Narragansett (Bonnet Beach), RI ordinance details the trash requirements including the placement of carts and have renter registries that can be used by the town to contact offenders of town ordinances.
- There are questions as to what can be recycled in CT. In particular, numbered plastic bags and shredded paper. Bob noted that the #4 bags that can be recycled in other states cannot in CT as they get caught in the sorting machinery.
- There was general acknowledgement that a program revision should be simple, to utilize and improve on what we have and collect follow-up data.
- Need to change habits including assisting business owners recycle
- Education should include where the public can take their plastic bags to be recycled.
- There was disagreement as to the usefulness of a trash receptacle at the transfer station for weekly summer visitors on vacation vs. having more trash carts and bags available for renters.
- General agreement on more frequent recycling
- Given the fact that during the winter months there is less garbage, would it be possible to reduce trash pic-up in the winter to bi-monthly.
- Need to confirm the consensus last week that the general permit held by the transfer station allows for trash drop-off and that there was the means to pick up the trash within the required time period, possibly every 48 hours.
- Consider enforcement process
- Evaluate the transfer station fees and what can be collected
- Need a continual education-media program to reinforce the requirements and to keep up with necessary changes as technology improves.

The committee agreed to recommend that the BOS consider a resolution to pursue UBP for waste management.

Adjournment

The members will try and keep the meetings to an hour in the future. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

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

Mary Jo Nosal
4/17/14