

Recycling Incentive Grant Committee Meeting

Minutes

September 10, 2014

Present: Selectwoman Mary Jo Nosal, J Ranelli, Gary Yuknat, Lou Russo, Leslie O'Connor, Bob Gentile, Cathy Frank

Absent: Jim Ward, Janice Ehlemeyer, Brenda Moriarty, Tom Gotowka, Paul Gleason; First Selectwoman Bonnie Reemsnyder also not present

Welcome and Approval of Minutes of August 8, 2014

Selectwoman Nosal convened the meeting at 4:38pm.

There being no quorum, minutes of the previous meeting could not be approved.

Mary Jo received messages from Brenda Moriarty and Jim Ward that neither could attend today's meeting. She understood that Tom Gotowka might be late to the meeting. She received no response to her email to Paul Gleason, who has been unable to attend any meetings since the initial one due to conflicts with his school coaching schedule. Several committee members believed that Paul had resigned because of those conflicts.

UBP resolution and recommendations

The Board of Selectmen questioned the unanimity of the 7-0 vote on the Resolution passed at the August 8 meeting because the vote did not include all listed members of the committee.

Recycling committee members, including two who were absent on August 8, concurred that a quorum was present on August 8, and those present at that meeting did vote unanimously to support the Resolution proposed.

Members, including the two who were absent on August 8, also concurred that the language of the Resolution was consistent with discussions that took place at many prior Committee meetings, and that the Resolution was an accurate reflection of Committee members' desire to focus on an educational campaign and phased in implementation of any recommended changes to the current trash & recycling system.

The Board of Selectmen also expressed concern that Stonington does not like the pay per bag program in place in that town. Mary Jo contacted John Pettaplace, the Director of Stonington's Solid Waste Program, who described the history of the 20 year program and confirmed that it has been successful. Residents voted 2 to 1 to keep the program when it was challenged at a Referendum.

Natalie Starr of DSM contacted Mary Jo expressing concern about the DEEP accepting the language in the Resolution after she received minutes of the August meeting.

Mary Jo submitted the proposed Resolution to Chris Nelson at the State DEEP, who is reviewing the language with his team. It is not clear if the State DEEP will accept the language in the Resolution, a prerequisite to the release of Recycling Incentive Grant funds. Chris asked Mary Jo for results of the survey conducted and she provided them. Chris suggested looking into an Education Grant. He also suggested contacting Willimantic Waste to request educational incentives as part of the Town contract. Cathy sent Mary Jo the contract and she will review it.

Recycling committee members believe it would be premature for the Town to commit to anything other than an educational campaign at this time. Members thought it significant that they recommended a Recycling Commission as a standing board.

There will be a second round of incentive grant applications and we can consider reapplying if necessary.

Sub Committee Updates

Gary Yuknat does not have updated pick-up numbers for this meeting.

Mary Jo would like the Education Subcommittee to develop a proposed budget for a video, two mailings, stickers, website updates, a dictionary, and a presentation kit.

Other Business

- **FAQ**
Frequently Asked Questions # 15 (appliances, electronics, mattresses, furniture) & # 16 (household hazardous waste, medical waste, unused prescriptions) still need to be answered. Mary Jo will work with Tom to complete FAQs.
- **Recycling Survey**
Mary Jo distributed a summary of the survey results. Committee reviewed the majority results. Mary Jo reminded committee that survey results must be published. Agreement reached to complete an article for the December quarterly report. Mary Jo will work with Leslie O'Connor and J Ranelli.
- Gary would like the recycling committee to address the summer recycling schedule for beach areas.

Next meeting: September 24, 2014

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.

Cathy Frank & Leslie O'Connor
9/16/14