

## Solid Waste & Recycling Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Monday March 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Old Lyme Memorial Town Hall

Attendees: Maryellen Basham, Jim Ward, Leslie O'Connor, Fred Beheringer, Tim Griswold, Suzanne Thompson, Anne Galliher

1. Call to Order at 6:05 PM
2. Approval of Feb 13 meeting minutes; Suzanne moved to approve, Leslie seconded, all in favor.
3. Guests
  - A. Anne Galliher, Old Lyme resident, shared ideas and concerns for mini bottle (nip bottle) revenue; Anne is not representing the OLLT.
    1. Land Trust properties are particularly vulnerable to litter by these bottles. Other areas of concern are (not limited to) Whippoorwill, Townwoods, Smith Neck, Sill, Rt 1.
    2. Over \$7500 is in the mini bottle fund (representing 50K bottles per year).
    3. Mini bottles are litter and represent an increased likelihood of drunk driving;
    4. Concern for OL growing dependent on the revenue; would like to see money go to the people who clean it up and determine a way to do this fairly; many organized groups and residents already pick-up litter on their streets and neighborhoods.
    5. Anne asked our committee to request a mini bottle ban or lobby town businesses to voluntarily add 5 cents to current redemption (bring up to 10 cents); happening in 2024 in CT Legislature.
    6. A ban in CT was attempted years ago but it failed; there is an active lobby group fighting for a ban. Expanded Producer Responsibility legislation (EPR) vs. outright ban is debated in CT
    7. Consideration for a state roadway clean up (requires a list of volunteers who will participate, vests to be worn and signage posted in work area from state.
    8. Consideration for part-time public works crew be hired to help with state road clean up
    9. What are other towns doing with the money
    10. We could request that the Community Service Group at HS could (as stewards of open space) to tend to areas of concern.
    11. Solid Waste and Recycling Committee is the target group, able to make spending recommendations to BOS/BOF.
4. Old Business
  - A. Monthly Updates
    1. Tim gave CWPM invoice update
      - Recycling is still the problem because it is not marketable at the current time. We are renegotiating with CWPM a portion of our contract (cost to pick up at home and deliver to CWPM facility).
      - The Essex transfer station was the stop before Hartford MIRA
      - Our garbage is incinerated in Preston, recycling goes to Willimantic

- There may be a spot to go on a tour of the recycling facility in Berlin (Fred to follow-up with Kim O'Rourke)
- CWPM Tour in New London or Preston is a possibility (Tim to follow-up)

3. Trec: 3695 lbs collected; contest ends April 15; results announced on or before Earth Day, April 22.

### 3. Textile Bin

- Around 100 lbs collected
- Maryellen has decals to add to bin that provide guidelines on how and what can go in the textile bin
- Publicity timeline presented

### 4. Composting

- Jim's neighborhood pilot has collected 50 lbs (approximately 2 weeks worth) and received good comments on lymeline.
- Composting survey questions should be reviewed by Cheryl Poirier before next meeting (Maryellen to reach out to Cheryl)

### 5. New Business

- Annual vote for officers: Suzanne motion to keep current officers in place, Leslie seconded, all in favor.
- Committee Message/Slogan
  - Recycling and Waste Management (suggestion for new name), minimize single use, recycle textiles, compost organic matter.
  - Need to build a packaged message or presentation to bring to Rotary (in OS) or Lions (OL), PGN library, or other public speaking opportunities. Middletown is a good example
  - Leslie to talk to Community Service and Adam Raity about logo design
  - Reduce our "waste" not "waist"
- River COG HHW & Shred Event information is posted on our town website

### 6. Upcoming Events and Other Announcements

- Duck River Garden Club Plant Sale May 12-13

### 7. Public Comments - No public comments

8. Adjournment motion to adjourn at 7:39 PM by Suzanne, Jim seconded, all in favor.

