

## MINUTES

### HAZARDOUS WASTE/RECYCLING COMMITTEE

**Thursday, January 13, 2005**  
**Town Manager's Conference Room**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** David Rathbun, Margaret Hrabchak, Lorane Black, Thomas Scelfo, David Bowen, Kate Fleming and Patricia Darragh

Also present was Purchasing Assistant Michael Betz

**Members Absent:**

Mary Bigelow and Barbara Hutchinson

**1) Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m.

**2) Pledge of Allegiance**

The Committee faced the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3) Approval of Minutes**

The following amendment was made to the Minutes of the Meeting of December 9, 2004: Under: Agenda Line Item #4 – Correspondence - the first line, “David Rathbun reported he has been advised that a final decision will be made for the scheduling of Satellite Day 2005.” should read “David Rathbun reported he has been advised that a final decision will be made for the scheduling of HazWaste Central Day 2005.” David Bowen made a Motion to approve the Minutes, as amended. Patricia Darragh seconded the Motion. Lorane Black abstained; all other members were in favor and none opposed. The Motion was passed.

**4) Correspondence**

A summary of an article entitled “Environmentalists Protest Apples iWaste” was presented, in which the environmentalist group feels that due to the small size of the new iPod electronic gadget, and the difficulty in changing the battery, many of these electronics are being thrown out instead of recycled. Apple was targeted because they charge consumers a \$30 fee to recycle a computer.

5) **Report from Michael Betz**

**Status of Discussion With John's Refuse Regarding the Overnight Storage of Hazardous Waste Material Left Over After North Branford's Satellite Hazardous Waste Collection Day:** Mr. Betz reported that he has contacted John's Refuse who informed him that hazardous waste cannot be kept on their premises overnight. When Mary Bigelow is in attendance at the next scheduled meeting, the members will request that she determine what the vendor arrangement is with Clean Harbor, and request that she speak with a representative of the Department of Environmental Protection. In addition, David Rathbun will contact Lori Vitagliano at the Regional Water Authority for further information.

**Status: Removal of Generators and Lumber from Paper Recycling Building:** Michael Betz informed the members that the books are gone, and the generators have been removed. The generators will become a part of an auction scheduled for January 21, 2005. The money generated by the selling price will be used to offset the expense of a recent purchase of an aerial cherry picker for the Public Works Department. The Public Works Director would like to have the lumber remain in the building, as it is used for repairs to trucks (i.e., boardsides for the trucks).

In addition, Mr. Betz stated that the Town's Annual Report will be published in March/April. The new trash/recycle card was mailed out and is now in use, and residents are calling to verify the change in the holidays that are listed. In speaking with a representative of John's Refuse, Mr. Betz gave them advance notice that they will be invited to the next scheduled meeting of this Committee. Lastly, budget requests will need to be presented to Town Manager Karl Kilduff shortly. Mr. Betz suggested meeting with Chairman David Rathbun to inform him what Mr. Kilduff would like to see, and what this Committee would like to propose. He will provide Mr. Rathbun with a status of the current year and ledger.

6) **HazWaste Report**

Mary Bigelow was absent from this meeting. However, she had previously sent an e-mail to the members advising that the Town will be responsible for the payment of \$2,500 for contaminated oil that was taken in at HazWaste Central in error. All towns who participated that day are being assessed an equal portion of payment.

7) **Create a Sub-Committee to Address and Develop a Tax Bill Insert**

The Committee agreed that the insert should be a two-sided insert at the cost of \$1,050.00. It was decided that the Sub-Committee will consist of members David Bowen, Thomas Scelfo, and Lorane Black. They will collect data from the Town Hall, have discussions on the layout and text of the insert, and create a draft of the insert on the computer that can be e-mailed to the other members. The members agreed that the amount spent annually for household waste removal is pertinent information that should be included on the insert. An "Information for Inclusion: Annual Tax Bill June 2005" was presented to the members, outlining 11 suggestions to be used in the creation of the insert.

8) **Develop an Opinion on How Residential Brush Should Be Handled**

Lorane Black reported that during the Fall 2004 Leaf Drop Off, a total of 115 vehicles brought in brush. The service is beneficial to the residents, but is causing problems on the site.

Michael Betz stated that it is costing the Town thousands of dollars for disposal, and there is nothing budgeted. A lengthy discussion was held regarding whether or not the Town should continue to provide the service of brush intake, or whether it should be limited to strictly leaf intake. Issues discussed included whether the Public Works Department is using the site for brush from municipal places such as fields, parks, and Town properties, whether commercial drop-offs are occurring, the issuance of permits for residents only for drop-offs, and whether this issue and decision should be referred to the Town Council. It was agreed that David Rathbun will meet with Public Works Director Fran Merola to discuss his opinion on whether the Town should continue to take leaves and brush, or if it should be limited to just leaves.

**9) Open Items**

**A Memo/List Must Be Developed Prior to February's Proposed Meeting With Representatives From John's Refuse:** Thomas Scelfo had previously e-mailed the Committee members a draft list of 11 proposed questions to be placed on the Memo for John's Refuse. David Rathbun will put a Memo together in final form. Michael Betz will formally invite the representatives of John's Refuse to the February 10, 2005 meeting, and the Committee will provide them with a list of the questions prior to that meeting.

**2005 Recycling/Trash Information Card:** Margaret Hrabchak will publish the Card in the Totoket Times and The Sound. In addition, various members will distribute the Cards for display in municipal buildings (libraries, police department, town hall, schools, community center, etc.)

**Potential Volunteers To Fill Vacated Committee Position:** Patricia Darragh reported that Liz Boissard has shown a possible interest in serving on this Committee. She will have Mrs. Boissard attend the February 10, 2005 meeting.

**Status of Reappointing Two Committee Members:** Mary Bigelow was absent from this meeting.

**10) Other Business**

**Future Articles for Totoket Times and The Sound:** Margaret Hrabchak will publish the Recycling/Trash Information Card in the Totoket Times and The Sound. She will ask residents to take note of the change in trash pickup holidays and the HazWaste in June, and inform residents where the Cards can be picked up in Town.

**Volunteers for February Paper Collection:** A suggestion was made that due to the cold temperature of the recycling building, a split day schedule be used for February 5, 2005. David Rathbun and David Bowen volunteered for 9:00 – 10:30 a.m., and Margaret Hrabchak and Lorane Black volunteered for 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon. The mixed paper container needs to be emptied, and in addition, Public Works should be notified to shovel any snow that day.

**Miscellaneous:** Lorane Black distributed the Report on Leaf and Brush Collection Fall - 2004 which showed a total amount of 431 vehicles bringing in leaves, and 115 vehicles bringing in brush for the season. Mrs. Black requested that Secretary Patricia Darragh mail thank-you

notes to the volunteers for the leaf drop off collection. Elections of Officers will need to take place at the February 10, 2005 meeting; therefore, the nominations for officers and directors were made at this meeting. The following nominations were made: Chairman: David Rathbun; Co-Vice Chairman: Margaret Hrabchak and Barbara Hutchinson; Secretary; Patricia Darragh. The elections will take place next month.

**11) Citizen's Statements**

There were no citizens present at this meeting.

**12) Adjournment**

There being no further business, Kate Fleming made a Motion, seconded by Patricia Darragh, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. All were in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeanette M. Marshall, Clerk