

MINUTES

HAZARDOUS WASTE/RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 12, 2004
Council Chambers
7:30 p.m.

Members Present: David Rathbun, Mary Bigelow, Thomas Scelfo, Barbara Hutchinson, Lorane Black, David Bowen, and Patricia Darragh. Also present was Purchasing Assistant Michael Betz.

Members Absent: Kate Fleming, Margaret Hrabchak and Sharon Montesi.

1) **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

3) **Approval of Minutes**

The following amendments are to be made to the Minutes of the Meeting of January 8, 2004: Sharon Montesi should be removed under "Members Absent", and placed under "Members Present". Under "Correspondence", the Minutes should read "Lorane Black stated that there was no correspondence to report on." David Bowen then made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of January 8, 2004, as amended. Lorane Black seconded said Motion. Mary Bigelow abstained. All other members present were in favor; none opposed, and the Motion was passed.

4) **Correspondence**

David Rathbun stated that Mary Bigelow had given to him a subscription card for Organization Waste News. Michael Betz said the Town does not receive it here. The Committee will let it pass. Mary Bigelow reported that she received an email from the Connecticut Recyclers Coalition which stated the bottle bill is coming up through this legislative session. She has spoken with the Chairman of the Environmental Committee who stated she has no control over it because it is not going through her Committee. If it doesn't go through this

year, it will come up again next year. Lorane Black will contact Bob Ward to obtain more information on it.

Barbara Hutchinson distributed copies of an old article from The Northford•North Branford Citizen regarding the Town Council's adoption of the recommendations proposed by the North Branford Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day Committee, making them a standing committee responsible for hazardous waste issues in town.

5) Report from Michael Betz

Lorane Black inquired to Michael Betz what should and could be done with regard to Christmas trees that were put out at curbside at the proper time, but were covered with snow and therefore not picked up. Mr. Betz advised that residents should call the Town Manager's office to request a pick up, or members of this Committee could call with the property address when they see the trees at curbside. Several names/addresses were provided to him for him to give to the Executive Secretary.

Mr. Betz stated that he did have the heat repaired in the recycling building of the Public Works Garage.

With regard to aseptic packaging being included with recyclable collections, Mr. Betz advised that he and Town Manager Karl Kilduff will be meeting with ADS to renegotiate next year's contract. Any issues not in the current year's contract, including aseptic packaging, will be discussed. He will report back to this Committee.

Mr. Betz reported that the Town will provide funds (up to \$200) for prizes for the garbage sculpture contest that this Committee is putting together. He requested that the members purchase the prizes and submit receipts for reimbursement.

Lastly, regarding the budget for printing and postage costs for the proposed new Ordinance for recycling and scrap metal, he said there is currently \$350 in the budget, which has not been spent. He was advised, however, that this is for the Recycle Card. He stated that if the proposed Ordinance proceeds between the Committee and the Town, the Town will pick up the responsibility to provide the funds.

6) HazWaste Report

Mary Bigelow reported that our HazWaste Central Day will be July 31st and October 2nd, and no other town will be joining us. She once again checked with CRRRA regarding the electronics collection bill from last spring, and she was advised that they have closed their books on it, as did the Town of Wallingford. The money for payment of the bill was in last year's budget appropriation, and therefore will be released. She asked if the Committee would like to join them again, and the members agreed that they would.

7) Report on Meeting with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Wolfe

Lorane Black stated that she has met with Dr. Wolfe, and was advised that Jerome Harrison only has 3rd grade, and Totoket Valley has 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. Dr. Wolfe was receptive to the idea of the garbage sculpture made from recyclables contest versus a poster

contest. He offered the use of the facilities for creating and printing an advertising poster. He suggested using two art teachers for the judging. This Committee needs to decide on the sculpture dimensions, the cutoff date, and the display location. It was suggested that it be tied into Earth Day in April, and that the posters should be out by March 15th. The poster will be created, and a draft will be brought to the next meeting of March 11th, to then be given to the central office to be run off in final form.

8) Report on 2004 Recycling/Trash Information Card

David Rathbun distributed copies of the 2004 Recycling/Trash Information card that the Committee had designed and delivered to the Town Manager as the master card to be presented to the printer for final printing. The card was designed to bring out more information, and to be more readable than in previous years. He then handed out copies of the Card in its form of the proof that is at the printer, and it has been completely revamped by someone. The members were all in agreement that this is not the card they designed, and it should not be printed. Mr. Rathbun will meet with Town Manager Karl Kilduff to discuss the situation, and will update the members via e-mail.

9) Discussion on “Suggestions for Recycling Ordinance Modifications”

A discussion was held regarding the new draft memo which was e-mailed to the Committee members prior to this meeting by Tom Scelfo. Michael Betz stated that it should be made clear how the violation information gets to the Town Manager (ie., police department, “whistle-blowers”, etc.). Mr. Scelfo said that we are providing a “tiered approach” to reach the fine of \$100 with this new Ordinance. Also, “Any person found guilty” has been changed to read “Any person determined to be in violation...” The members would like to be able to project the savings to the Town if residents began recycling, or recycling more efficiently, to show the tax benefits to the Town and its residents. Whatever recyclables are pulled out of the trash saves money in tonnage weight, and the public needs to be educated with regard to that. Tom Scelfo stated that based on 14,000 residents, if each resident saved one pound a week, the savings would amount to approximately \$30,000 per year. Mr. Scelfo will do another version of the Memo, including changes to the tiered enforcement, and changing the Memorandum heading to read that it is from the members of this Commission to Town Manager Karl Kilduff.

10) Open Items

Recycling of Aseptic Packaging

Availability of Printing and Postage Costs – Modified Recycling Ordinance

Both of these items were discussed under “Report from Michael Betz”.

11) Other Business

Volunteers for March Paper Collection: Lorane Black volunteered for the March paper collection. Dave Rathbun advised that Sharon Montesi has also volunteered in advance of this meeting for the March paper collection. Mrs. Black will take pictures at the collection for future articles in the Totoket Times.

Future Articles for Totoket Times: Barbara Hutchinson stated that she and Margaret Hrabchak wrote an article to explain the recycling card and answering questions, repeating the

information on the card, and providing the hotline telephone number. However, it will not make it in by the deadline for the February 14th issue. She also said that they have created a topics list for future articles which include: the Garbage Museum, websites, computer and electronic recycling, the cost of garbage, information on composting, biodegradable styrofoam, the Town's compliance, and upcoming events. It was also their thought to talk to seniors about recycling, and to contact Scout leaders to see if badges were needed through volunteerism. Patricia Darragh suggested to put an article in to request volunteer groups assist with leaf collection in April. The Northford Women's Club is honoring children doing community service, and she suggested we create a certificate form to acknowledge volunteer hours put in on this Committee's behalf to be credited toward that community service (for youth 18 years of age or older.)

Lastly, Tom Scelfo questioned whether his term has been extended, as he has not received a letter. Mary Bigelow stated that she has spoken to the Town Committee chairpersons for those who have not yet been reappointed, and asked them to send letters so that the members could be sworn in.

12) Citizen's Statements

There were no citizen's statements.

13) Adjournment

There being no further business, Patricia Darragh made a Motion, seconded by Thomas Scelfo, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. All were in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette M. Marshall, Clerk