

## MINUTES

### HAZARDOUS WASTE/RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 11, 2004  
Council Chambers  
7:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** David Rathbun, Mary Bigelow, Barbara Hutchinson, Kate Fleming, Lorane Black, Thomas Scelfo, Patricia Darragh, Margaret Hrabchak and Sharon Montesi. Also present was Town Manager Karl Kilduff.

**Members Absent:** David Bowen. Also absent was Purchasing Assistant Michael Betz.

1) **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

3) **Approval of Minutes**

Lorane Black made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of February 12, 2004. Tom Scelfo seconded said Motion. Kate Fleming, Margaret Hrabchak and Sharon Montesi abstained. All other members present were in favor; none opposed, and the Motion was passed.

4) **Correspondence**

Lorane Black reported that she received the Leader's Choice Clean Harbors Newsletter, and a Keep America Beautiful office catalog, promoting Great America Cleanup through bulk flyers, litterbags, etc. which promote your business. Mary Bigelow presented two bills before the General Assembly and reported that the Connecticut Recyclers Coalition testified on both bills. The "Bottle Bill", which was heard on March 9<sup>th</sup>, did not get out of the Committee as of yet. Mrs. Black stated that she had contacted State Representative Bob Ward's office and got a website address for H.B. 5271 to keep track of the status of the Bill. That website address is [www.cga.state.ct.us](http://www.cga.state.ct.us). Mary read a synopsis of the following bills: R.B 43 AA - Repealing the Refund Value of Certain Beverage Containers, S.B. 549 AAC – The Expansion of the Beverage Container Redemption Provisions,

R.B 450 AAC – Advance Disposal Fees and Grants to Municipalities for Recycling and Clean Comprehensive Litter Abatement and Prevention, H.B. 5375 AAC – The Recycling of Electronic Devices, and S.B. 42 AA – Authorizing Municipalities to Impose a Sales Tax on Meals to Fund Anti-Litter Programs. More information on these 2004 Recycling Legislation Bills can be found on the website previously listed.

**5) Review and Discussion of Proposed Recycling Ordinance Revision with Town Manager**

Town Manager Karl Kilduff stated that in early February, he attended the first meeting of the CRRA. He reported that the tipping fee for garbage will be increasing from \$63.75 per ton to \$70.00 per ton. In addition, for bulky waste, the increase will go from \$75.00 per ton to \$85.00 per ton. An additional levy on recyclables was requested for the second consecutive year, but it was not passed. With regard to bulky waste, the Hartford landfill is losing space, and only has approximately two more years of capacity. CRRA is requesting that the landfill build a retaining wall in order to bury deeper, but it is unclear whether that will transpire. In addition, the ashes from the Hartford burn plant are transported to an ash landfill, and that is near capacity as well.

With regard to the Town's garbage collection, Mr. Kilduff reported he entered into negotiations with ADS for an extension of the current contract (which is a two year contract with a right to extend). ADS provided a number that could not be substantiated to fair open market and therefore was too high of an increase. The contract will now go back out to bid.

Regarding the Recycling Ordinance Revision, he then addressed the three suggestions developed by this Committee as outlined in a Memorandum to him dated February 16, 2004 (in reverse order).

**Establish Tiered Enforcement:** He put together additional information on the three areas looking to establish a tiered enforcement (two \$50 steps). Mr. Kilduff has received recycling ordinances from CCM for a cross section of other towns. He distributed copies of letters that he is currently using as a system. He first sends out a letter to the resident in violation requesting voluntary compliance. If there is no response to that letter, he then send a second letter by certified mail, return receipt requested, stating that he attempted voluntary compliance and did not receive it, and that failure to remedy the situation within 48 hours from the receipt of that letter will result in penalties or remedies available to the Town. This usually elicits a response. He has not yet had to go beyond this step. With regard to the fines and/or penalties, Town Attorney John Gesmonde needs to clarify the mechanism by which the fine is issued by the Town Manager. To place a lien on a resident's property, he would need a Court order.

**Prohibit Scrap Metal Eyesores:** Mr. Kilduff interprets the ordinance to being applicable to other garbage, and therefore would fall under the scope of the steps he is presently using as outlined above. He would like his office to be given notice of violations as soon as possible.

Barbara Hutchinson suggested that the ordinance be spelled out as opposed to as to his summary or interpretation of the ordinance. This would benefit the use by any future Town Manager or Town Attorney. The Committee members were all in agreement with this suggestion.

Increase Curbside Recycling: Mr. Kilduff asked what the intent of this suggestion was. Patricia Darragh stated that the intent is to have less recyclables in the garbage, thereby removing recyclables from the mainstream and decreasing the amount of money spent on per garbage weight (especially in light of the upcoming increase in tipping fees). Mr. Kilduff felt that there was an awful lot of hope in the language, but he did not necessarily think it was educational. He feels that you must change people's behavior through education. He also had concerns that the consequences could be a potential problem with illegal dumping. Dave Rathbun felt that if a resident's garbage would not be picked up without a recycle bin at the curbside, that would be an incentive to recycle. A discussion ensued with various ways to educate the public with the minimal budget that this Committee has, including door hangers with recycling information in addition or in place of the recycle card distributed by Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts, and doing a mailing of the recycle card by some means other than the Totoket Times.

Lastly, Mr. Kilduff informed the members that he and Mary Bigelow will be attending a Community Based Social Workshop on May 11<sup>th</sup> and offered to have another Committee member attend with them. This workshop will teach ways to add outreach to the community and effect change. Dave Rathbun stated that he would like to attend the workshop.

6) **Report from Michael Betz**

Michael Betz was not in attendance at this meeting.

7) **HazWaste Report**

Mary Bigelow reported that she was in contact with Wallingford regarding the upcoming electronics collection, and was advised that it could take place either in Hamden or Cheshire. If it is in Hamden, we will take part in it. She stated that at the last meeting, she was placed on the Education Committee. She advised that we could not extend the Clean Harbors contract; it will have to go out to bid, and it is likely that the cost will increase. She advised Patricia Darragh and Kate Fleming that "Lori" is able to visit the schools to present a program for Grades 1-4. Kate Fleming questioned where in the school curriculum that should be addressed. Lorane Black stated that she did previously ask Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Wolfe, who confirmed that it is in the Grades K-12 curriculum. Mrs. Black will re-contact Dr. Wolfe to determine specifically where it falls into the curriculum (ie., Earth Science, Character Education, etc.)

8) **Leaf Drop-Off Center – April Volunteer Response**

Lorane Black informed the Committee that there is only one gap to be filled – April 24<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. Dave Rathbun volunteered to take that time slot. Mrs. Black questioned whether there would be any instructional changes (ie., one gate, different keys, etc.). Mr. Rathbun advised that there would be no changes at this point, and that Mrs. Black can use the format of her previous letter to send out. Mrs. Black offered to Mr. Rathbun to continue to recruit outside volunteers because of the rapport she has already established.

9) **Open Items**

**Contact with Representataive Ward re: Proposed "Bottle Bill Legislation"**

This item was discussed under "Correspondence".

### **Update on Preparations for “Garbage Sculpture Contest”**

Patricia Darragh presented some information that she has found on-line regarding recyclable art sculptures. It suggested dimensions of 3’x2’x1’, with a weight not to exceed 10 pounds. A possible name for the contest could be “Re-created Art Show”. The next step would be to create flyers and distribute them through school and around town. It was suggested that the flyer have a form to send in so that the Committee could get an advance idea of how much of a response is being generated. A discussion was held regarding the date, where to display and judge the sculptures, and what the first, second and third place prizes would be. Dave Rathbun stated that we should define and finalize the details at the April meeting. A subcommittee of Kate Fleming, Patricia Darragh and Lorane Black was formed to work on some information to present at that meeting.

### **10) Other Business**

**Volunteers for April Paper Collection:** Barbara Hutchinson and Mary Bigelow volunteered for the April paper collection.

**Future Articles for Totoket Times:** Barbara Hutchinson stated that the paper did not print the article she sent in last week. She will re-submit the article changing the first sentence to read “Did you see last week?”. For future articles, she will write about the kids visiting the Garbage Museum. Patricia Darragh suggested a future educational article in the format of bulleted trivia facts, such as how much money is saved by every pound of recyclables that is taken out of the garbage.

**Unclassified:** Lorane Black reported that the white paper dumpster has to be emptied. Dave Rathbun will report it to Michael Betz. She also stated that she believes the mixed paper will need to be emptied next month. Dave Rathbun suggested the date for “North Branford Recycles Day” to be the first Saturday in May. The banner will be put up, and it will be published in the Totoket Times. He questioned if any Committee members had seen the Recycle Card on the cable access television network, and no one had. He is concerned that his submissions are not being acted on. Mary Bigelow stated that there is now a part time paid employee, and she will ascertain the name of the person and provide Mr. Rathbun with it.

### **11) Citizen’s Statements**

There were no citizen’s statements.

### **12) Adjournment**

There being no further business, Patricia Darragh made a Motion, seconded by Barbara Hutchinson, to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m. All were in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jeanette M. Marshall, Clerk