

MINUTES

HAZARDOUS WASTE/RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 13, 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 David Bowen. Also present was Purchasing Assistant Michael Betz.

Members Absent: Sharon Montesi.

1) **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m.

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

3) **Approval of Minutes**

The following amendments were made to the Minutes of the Meeting of April 8, 2004:

6. HazWaste Report: The word “not” in final sentence of the paragraph should be eliminated so that it reads “Mary Bigelow can attend the Recycle Coalition Seminar; ...”

7. Final Preparation for “Garage (sic) Sculpture Contest: The word “garage” in three places – in the heading, in the first sentence, and in the last sentence of the paragraph is amended to read “garbage”.

8. Discussion and Preparation for “North Branford Recycles Day”: The word “Compositer” in the third sentence is amended to read “Composter”.

Lorane Black made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of April 8, 2004. Margaret Hrabchak seconded said Motion. Patricia Darragh and David Bowen abstained. All other members present were in favor; none opposed, and the Motion was passed.

4) Correspondence

Lorane Black circulated the Report on Leaf and Brush Collection, Spring 2004 to the Committee members. There was a discussion about the rollback of the next spring collection. David Bowen made a Motion that the spring collection be changed to start in the 3rd and 4th week of April, and the 1st and 2nd week of May. Patricia Darragh seconded the Motion and a roll call vote was taken. All members were in favor, none opposed, and the Motion passed.

David Rathbun presented to Michael Betz a leaflet from Fibrex Products (which was received by Mary Bigelow) regarding recycling containers. Mr. Rathbun then gave to Patricia Darragh a booklet he received from Eesmarkets. Lastly, Lorane Black had given to Mr. Rathbun an article from the March 31, 2004 edition of the Branford Review regarding the cost of trash increases.

5) Report from Michael Betz

Michael Betz stated that the 2002-2003 Recycling Report is in draft form, and he will report on it at the next Committee meeting.

He then reported that there is difficulty obtaining information on pinpointing where the school system's newspaper versus the curbside newspaper is going. Lorane Black clarified the issue and read from the previous Minutes that the question was "where and how should newspaper get recycled in schools?", as opposed to where it is going in comparison to curbside newspapers. Mr. Betz will obtain this information for the next meeting.

Mr. Betz then advised the members that the curbside trash pick up contract went out to bid, with a bid opening date of April 23rd. Five bids were received from vendors and the Town is conducting diligence (references, etc.) A decision should be made by next week. The current contract expires at the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2004).

With regard to the inventory of bins, he reported that there are 120 bins remaining. He is preparing to go out to bid for the purchase of bins in four to six weeks. He will research the previous bid, which he believes was several years ago. He predicted the current supply of bins will be depleted in August or September. A discussion was held regarding the quantity of bins to order, the color, that the bins should be made from recycled materials, etc. Mr. Betz advised that he can put whatever specifications this Committee would like placed in the bid.

He stated that ADS made a suggestion to him that the Town ought to consider offering in a proactive way additional bins to residents. The theory behind the multiple bins is that residents having good intentions of recycling would have the convenience of having a second bin once the first was filled to capacity, and they would not put the recyclables that didn't fit in the first bin into the trash. The Committee members thought that was a reasonable suggestion.

Mary Bigelow asked Mr. Betz if the recyclable materials (i.e., mixed paper) at the Recycle Center is taken to CRRA's recycling section or is it put there for the burn? Mr. Betz will get the information needed to answer this question and present it at the next monthly meeting.

6) HazWaste Report

Mary Bigelow had nothing to report on at this meeting. She did, however, state that volunteers would be needed for HazWaste Central for July 31st and October 2nd. Five volunteers will be needed for the July 31st date.

7) Report on May 11th CBSM Workshop "Beyond Brochures"

This workshop, given by Doug McKenzie-Mohr, was attended by David Rathbun, Mary Bigelow, and Town Manager Karl Kilduff. Mr. McKenzie-Mohr is an environmental psychologist designing programs to promote behavior, including changing attitudes, communication, removing external barriers, and getting commitment. Mr. Rathbun received at the seminar a book co-authored by Mr. McKenzie-Mohr, Fostering Sustainable Behavior which he passed around for the members to look at. He stated that the seminar approach was to educate (through deliverance in a positive manner), not to punish, and he went through different programs on how to change people's behavior. He asked the members to look at the website www.cbsm.com and select the "Guide" topic from that website. It will be put on the agenda for next month to hold a discussion regarding what the other members learned from the website information. He suggested doing the exercise "Uncovering Barriers and Benefits". Mary Bigelow added that the key is to uncover what people's barriers are, then show them the benefit of change. She stated that she learned at the seminar that the most effective way to do that is face-to-face or telephone communication; and that the remaining methods, in order of descending effectiveness, are: television or video, radio, and then newspaper. A discussion was held regarding creating a video for the public access television channel. It was suggested that Town Council and public officials being involved would show leadership and would have a positive attitude.

8) Results of "North Branford Recycles Day"

There were 69 vehicles, ten composters were sold @ \$10.00 each, 12 recycle bins were sold @ \$3.00 each, and 81 tires were taken in @ \$1.00 each, for a total of \$217.00. The money was turned over to Michael Betz.

9) Open Items

Replenishment of Recycling Bins: This was discussed under "Report from Michael Betz".

North Branford School Recycle Club Participation at Paper Recycling Center: David Rathbun inquired of Michael Betz whether there was any Town liability to use members of this Club at the Paper Recycling Center. It was decided that it would suffice if the Committee created a parental permission form requiring a signature for anyone who participates. This form should also give credit toward community service for the amount of hours volunteered.

ADS Response as to Where and How Newspapers Get Recycled in the Schools:
Michael Betz still needs to ascertain this information, and will present it at the next meeting.

Committee's Proposed "Recycling Ordinance" – What's Next?: This Committee received feedback from Town Manager Karl Kilduff at the March meeting. There was some question whether this should be put on the "back burner" for now. The members decided that, in light of the recently attended CBSM Workshop seminar approach of "educate" versus "punish", the Committee would simply call in identified violations to the Town Manager's Office for now and revisit this issue at another meeting.

10) Other Business

Volunteers for June Paper Collection: Lorane Black volunteered for the June 5th paper collection from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon; Margaret Hrabchak volunteered from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon; and David Rathbun volunteered from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon..

Future Articles for Totoket Times: Barbara Hutchinson asked for suggestions for articles for the Totoket Times. She and Margaret Hrabchack are looking to create a "title" (perhaps a catchy phrase) for the articles being printed, so that it appears as a weekly column instead of as random articles.

Miscellaneous: Lorane Black reported that she placed another telephone call to the office of Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Wolfe to ascertain where in the K-12 school curriculum recycling is addressed. She received a telephone message back from Tammy Mockus, the Department Chairperson of Science at the high school stating that in 6th grade it is taught in Science, in 8th grade it is taught in Science, in 9th grade it is taught in General Science, and in grades 11-12 it is taught in Environmental Issues. Ms. Mockus' message stated that the school curriculum could be found at the Town library; however, Mrs. Black and the librarian were unable to locate it. The information on K-5 is still in question. Kate Fleming and Patricia Darragh offered to obtain a copy of the curriculum and provide it at the next meeting. Lastly, David Rathbun advised that he will be addressing the North Branford Rotary Club in June or July to talk about this Committee. He would like to obtain some historical information from the members for his presentation. Michael Betz will obtain some information for him from the Town Charter. There was some discussion that Patricia Darragh and Kate Fleming could assist Mr. Rathbun with a PowerPoint presentation if the presentation were to take place in July, or at any future presentation he might do with the Rotary Club.

11) Citizen's Statements

There were no citizen's statements.

12) Adjournment

There being no further business, Patricia Darragh made a Motion, seconded by Margaret Hrabchak, to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. All were in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette M. Marshall, Clerk

