

MINUTES

HAZARDOUS WASTE/RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 9, 2004
Town Hall Council Chambers
7:30 p.m.

Members Present: David Rathbun, Thomas Scelfo, David Bowen, Mary Bigelow, Kate Fleming, Margaret Hrabchak and Barbara Hutchinson.

Also present was Purchasing Assistant Michael Betz

Members Absent: Lorane Black, Patricia Darragh 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 amendment was made to the Minutes of the Meeting of July 8, 2004: Under: 9) Other Business (Volunteers for August Paper Collection ...) "Lorane Black and Patricia Darragh volunteered ..." should read "Lorane Black and Kate Fleming volunteered ..."; and under 10) Citizen's Statements: "Kate Fleming will write a letter ..." should read "Patricia Darragh will write a letter ..." Thomas Scelfo made a motion to approve the Minutes, as amended. Dave Bowen seconded the motion. Margaret Hrabchak and Barbara Hutchinson abstained; all other members were in favor and none opposed. The motion was passed.

4) Correspondence

David Rathbun reported that he received the following correspondence:

(1) An insert from customer's bills from CLP / UI regarding a program whereby the customer is paid \$50 for CLP/UI to pick up 10+ year old working refrigerators and/or freezers through October 31st. (2) An article from the New Haven Register entitled "Picture Your Environment" regarding a photography contest sponsored by the United Nations Environmental Programme, and Canon, Inc. to celebrate World Day. The contest runs until October 24th, and

hopes to bring to light the necessity to restore Earth, its people, wildlife and ecosystems back to health.

5) Report from Michael Betz

Comparison of Current “Quantities Recycled” Report to Previous Reporting

Periods: Michael Betz presented the “Quantities Recycled” Report for the time period July 2002-June 2003 for residential and non-residential sources. He stated that he had not recently seen the 1999 report. He checked with the DEP who informed him that it was not issued in 2000 or 2001. There is a 2002 report which was reported in February 2004 which he distributed to the members. Because it does not follow the format of the report in which it is submitted, he was unable to reconcile it in the short time frame from the time he received it to this meeting. Also, he is waiting for the July numbers from the hauler due to the switch of haulers. The 2003 report will be issued shortly by the DEP. Mr. Betz looked at the reports on a per capita basis, and it appears that the Town is taking more out on recycling than in the past on a per capita basis. David Rathbun felt that there is a decline in participating families. Thomas Scelfo stated that he is disappointed that our Town is one of the lowest per capita groups recycling in our demographic category. Mr. Betz provided the members with the website for information on the reports of: www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/gargaz2000/FebMar04gaz_2.pdf

Status: Replenishment of Recycling Bins: Regarding the update on the replenishment of recycling bins, Mr. Betz reported that the contract went out to bid six weeks ago, but no bids were received. It went out to bid a second time, and the company who serviced the Town ten years ago, Inteq Corporation, submitted a bid proposal. Mr. Betz distributed a “Bid Proposal Page” to the Committee members which was submitted by Inteq Corporation. There is a new version of the bin which was made ten years ago which is very similar to the original one. The Bid Proposal Page offers various quantities of bins to be purchased at different unit costs, as well as different imprinting options. At the 1,000 quantity, the per bin cost is \$5.25, and the Town only charges \$5.00 per bin. A decision would have to be made whether or not to increase the bin price charged to residents. David Rathbun and Mr. Betz will further discuss this, and the Committee will present a recommendation as to the quantity and the logo imprinted. Mr. Betz also advised the members that the \$5.00 charges for all previous bins that were sold were deposited into the General Fund, in which monies deposited do not annually recur. The monies collected for bins went into the net operations of the Town. Finance Director Anthony Esposito will research as to how to purchase the new bins, since there are no funds presently appropriated for the purchase of them. The monies collected for the bins in the future will be put into a recurring fund specifically for this purpose.

Update: John’s Refuse Proposal to Switch to Automated Curbside Pickup: Mr. Betz informed the members that the legal opinion rendered by Town Attorney John Gesmonde is that any automation of trash pickup is outside the scope of the original bid specifications and could set up the Town for anti-trust to others. It is unfair to all competitors who could have bid on an automated pickup proposal. If the Town Council decides it would like the Town to change to automated pickup, the existing contract would have to be canceled and a new bid put out for automated pickup specifically, or a combination of automated and manual pickup.

6) **HazWaste Report**

Mary Bigelow stated that she spoke with a representative of the Town of Wallingford regarding the upcoming fall electronics collection on October 30th. The Town of Wallingford is still negotiating with the Town of Hamden; therefore, a place has not yet been determined. (It will either be in Hamden or North Haven.) The collection will include, (but not limited to) televisions, computers, monitors, printers, microwave ovens, stereos, radios, and computer parts. It was suggested that an advance notice of the collection date be published in the Totoket Times, with information on the location to follow.

Thomas Scelfo advised the Committee members that he recalled reading information that Office Depot and Hewlett Packard had a collection of electronics pieces from June through September 6, 2004. The members will keep a lookout for a re-run of that program.

7) **Discussion of “Uncovering Barriers & Benefits” From the Book/Website “Fostering Sustainable Behavior”**

The Committee held a discussion regarding the “Fostering Sustainable Behavior” text that David Rathbun previous e-mailed to the members. Barbara Hutchinson felt the information is a valid starting point to impart information to residents. There was some question as to whether it is worth going through the matrix. Thomas Scelfo felt even if the Committee comes up with reasons why people don’t recycle, it is up against not having a budget, and the limitation of the inability to communicate information other than through media and/or publication sources. Other options, such as “pay as you go”, inserting information into or onto yearly tax bills, providing tipping fee increases to residents to increase awareness, and the previous submission of the Memorandum to Town Manager Karl Kilduff were discussed. It was decided that it would be beneficial to look at the towns listed on the Quantities Recycled report in our comparable demographics who are doing well. In that regard, websites will be visited, or direct contact will be made with the towns comparable to our demographics that had better end results than our Town as follows: Barbara Hutchinson will cover Ansonia through East Hampton; Margaret Hrabchak will cover East Lyme through Orange; Kate Fleming will cover Granby through Manchester; David Rathbun will cover Mansfield through Stonington; and Kate Fleming will ask Patricia Darragh to cover Oxford through Wolcott. David Rathbun posed the question as to whether or not the Committee should continue to pursue the creation of a short video regarding recycling for the public access channel. Kate Fleming suggested that if a video is made, Town officials and children should be featured. Perhaps the high school audio visual department, the junior high school recycle group, or a Rotary Club videotaping business could donate time and expertise.

8) **Open Items**

Removal of Generators and Lumber from Paper Recycling Building: Michael Betz advised that he is awaiting information from Public Works Director Fran Merola and Town Manager Karl Kilduff regarding a possible auction before the winter regarding the generator equipment. It was decided by Mr. Merola that the generator is of no use to our Town, and if it is not feasible or practicable to have an auction, the generator will be disposed of.

Response from the CT DEP and Joan Follo, Director of Curriculum at the Board of Education, Addressing Recycling Requirements for the K-8 Curriculum: Kate Fleming informed the Committee that recycling requirements are part of the social studies curriculum, *not* the science curriculum. It is being taught as eco-system in the fourth grade. Joan Follo is addressing the social studies curriculum this year. Kate Fleming will keep the Committee apprised of further information she receives.

Response from Pamela Gery, North Branford Recreational Director, Regarding Garbage on the School Grounds after Summer Camp Children Have Left for the Day: As Patricia Darragh is absent from this meeting, this item will be tabled to be addressed at the next monthly meeting of October 14th.

9) **Other Business**

Volunteers for October Paper Collection & HazWaste Central on October 2, 2004:

The following is the volunteer schedule for October *and* November:

HazWaste Central: Lorane Black, Mary Bigelow, David Rathbun, and Janet Rathbun.

Paper Collection: Kate Fleming. In addition, Kate Fleming will find an assistant.

November Paper Collection: Barbara Hutchinson, Margaret Hrabchak, and David Bowen

Future Articles for Totoket Times: The CLP/UI customer bill insert regarding the refrigerator and freezer pickup and the Earth Day photography contest article referenced in these Minutes under “Correspondence” will be submitted for publication. In addition, Leaf Drop Off information and the Electronics Collection date (without the location) will be published in the Totoket Times. The submissions will likely be for two issues ahead.

Volunteer Organizations/Individuals for Fall Leaf Drop-Off Center: David Rathbun advised the members that Lorane Black is in the process of organizing groups and organizations together for the fall leaf drop-off center.

Miscellaneous: Mary Bigelow stated that she has concerns that her new neighbor is putting out at curbside trash in corrugated cardboard boxes sealed with duct tape and John’s Refuse is picking it up. It was suggested that she contact a representative of John’s Refuse, as they should not be picking up corrugated cardboard boxes unless they are empty and flattened.

10) **Citizen’s Statements**

There were no citizen’s statements at this meeting.

11) **Adjournment**

There being no further business, David Bowen made a Motion, seconded by Barbara Hutchinson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. All were in favor, none opposed or abstained, and the Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette M. Marshall, Clerk

