

Minutes  
Hazardous Waste/Recycling Committee  
Thursday, October 9, 2014  
Town Manager's Conference Room



Members Present: Mary Bigelow, Liz Boissard, Donna Cordone, Hank Petroskey, Art Feldman, Debra Ferraro, Deborah Anderson, Michael Martin and Tom Scelfo

Michele Knockwood, purchasing assistant

Guest:

Joseph Galasso, Easter Seals, Goodwill Industries

Members Absent: Nancy Cianciulli,

1. Mary Bigelow called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance: The committee faced the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Guest: John's Refuse – Textiles-

Chair Mary Bigelow read correspondence from John's Refuse, who was not able to attend the Committee's invitation to attend, Mr. Galasso from Goodwill Industries was present to answer questions about textile recycling.

Mr. Galasso gave an overview of the procedure for collecting textiles. He stated that although this is not the protocol this areas uses, he can get more information on that practice. An area town uses a tote where residents collect textiles and shoes then call for Town pickup. Currently this is a pilot program with approximately 225 people signed on to participate. Mr. Galasso expressed interest in turning textile collection into a weekly pickup and is awaiting further information. He talked about the type of bag being used as well as some recommendations from Johns Refuse and Recycling. He spoke about the pros and cons of including a textile bag with regular pickup.

There was discussion regarding convenience for people as opposed to having people bring clothing to the local Goodwill store. Mr. Galasso also gave an overview of the procedure used by Goodwill for retail sales, selling by the pound as well as bailing and recycling their textiles.

Mr. Galasso stated that if North Branford picked up textile recycling, Goodwill would pick up the textiles from John's Refuse.

Michele Knockwood stated she would talk to John's to get specific information on how the Town and John's could move forward with this program.

There was also discussion regarding announcement to the community and work to be done at the Town and Committee level, as well as the potential for a quarterly pickup in partnership between North Branford and Goodwill. Another suggestion was to include textiles with the quarterly Ewaste Collection.

Art Feldman suggested they connect with John's to discuss the potential for weekly pickup of textiles and then decide how to approach textile recycling.

Mary Bigelow summarized steps to be taken; first contacting John's Refuse with questions, take a plan to DEEP to see if it's an approved process then contact back to Goodwill. Additionally check on any additional cost.

Michael Martin suggested the Committee focus on Communication to the Town and how residents might purchase bags.

Mr. Galasso suggested textiles could eventually become State mandated and municipalities should start to consider it.

### 3. Approval of Minutes September 11, 2014

Art Feldman made a motion to approve the September 11, 2014 minutes, second by Liz Boissard; all in favor with 2 abstentions from Hank Petroskey and Michael Martin.

### 5. Correspondence

Mary Bigelow presented a magazine for members to circulate.

### 6. Report from Purchasing Assistant Michelle Knockwood/Town Manager:

Michele Knockwood presented information on Covanta and Take 2, Inc, there was discussion regarding the difference between Ewaste vendors, contracts and when they would be able change vendors. There was continued discussion on potential interest in changing vendors. It was mentioned that both of these vendors are approved by the State. There was also discussion regarding cell phones and vendors making money off inside metals.

The Committee discussed the fact that Convanta reported they would pay back for collections, the Committee requested Michele inquire with Convanta on their payment policy then approach MeTECH for their competitiveness with this process.

### 7. Sub-Committee Reports:

- School Liaison

Hank Petrosky reported that he emailed Rebecca asking about the environmental club and has not received a reply as of yet.

There was discussion regarding schools participation in Ewaste collections, Michele Knockwood replied that the Town does participate.

- Public Relations & Video Presentations:

Art Feldman stated he reached out to Frank Mentone. Frank reported that he has done a show form Regional Water Authority, and would do a show in January or February.

Michael Martin reported he has nothing new to report on the website due to the upcoming website update.

Michele stated that there are numerous problems with internet and the website but should be updated and running well by January.

Michael Martin suggested they make reference to issues with the website on the recycle card until the information is updated.

Michele Knockwood stated that she would hate to take information down now knowing the update will be done soon.

- Answering machine info

Deborah Anderson reported that the answering machine is updated and working.

- Container Report

Debra Ferraro reported that both the Salvation Army and Goodwill containers are more than half full.

- Publicity & Articles

Donna Cordone reported both Ewaste and Recycle day and North Branford Day were advertised into Totoket times and the Sound. As well as the leaf days.

The next press releases will include leaf days.

- Report to Town Council – nothing to report

- Leaf Collection

Liz Boissard reported that she has filled all spots has fill spots for October 18 and October 25<sup>th</sup>.

8. Other Business:

- Report for Ewaste Collection October 4, 2014 and North Branford Recycles Day.

\$59.00 was reported with 94 cars as a count.

- Reminder for Hazwaste Central October 11, 2014

Debra Ferraro, Donna Cordone and Art Feldman volunteered for the October 11<sup>th</sup> event.

- Discussion on fire extinguishers - Mary Bigelow

There was discussion on the inclusion of fire extinguishers; Tom Scelfo stated that fire extinguishers could be brought in with no cost.

- Recycle/Waste Card

There was discussion on the card, Tom Scelfo handed out draft copies to Committee members for their review and suggested any changes be brought to the next meeting.

Michael Martin suggested a link to check on items to be recycled.

9. Miscellaneous:

Tom Scelfo reported that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee met and one vendor has gone out of business, as well as one recycling cardboard company. The Advisory Committee discussed encouraging organic recycling

Michael Martin reported the Rings End accepts the PVC plastic. They have a container for drop off.

Hank Petrosky suggested that they consider having four volunteers for Ewaste Collection days to help with the task of counting cars, managing traffic, etc. There was discussion among members; the conclusion was to continue on in the same manner.

10. Citizen's Statement - None

11. Adjournment: Liz Bousard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 pm; seconded by Tom Scalvo; all were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mary Caruso  
Recording Secretary