

RECYCLING CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES- Meeting Date 12 Nov 2014 (DRAFT COPY)

PRESENT: Craig Flaherty (Chair), Wendy Ward, Terry Gaffney, Allison Stolar, Carolyn Bayne. Also present: Ed Gentile- DPW Director, Dan Dolcetti- Swap Shop volunteer coordinator.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING- Minutes of both September and October meetings having been distributed and discussed, separate motions were made to approve each set of minutes as written; both motions were seconded and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- www.greendarien.org - Library has made the domain operational. Initial concept was to distribute information on single stream with an eye towards expansion to 'all things green'. Sally Ijams looking for volunteers to work on content. Wendy, Carolyn, Terry each volunteered.

SWAP SHOP- Five year anniversary (Dec 21st) - Carolyn working to get articles published.

LIBRARY- has made it known a family-friendly Fair focused on 'green activity' is in the planning stage to be set up on a Sunday around Earth Day.

TOWN HALL LOBBY CASE- Open for our use- Allison and Terry to submit application to Monuments & Ceremonies Commission for both immediate use and for the month of April.

CITY CARTING TOUR- Willing to organize tours. Two separate dates to be set up for convenience of Committee members as we must have no more 3 Committee members present or else it is a meeting and would require Public Notice.

SIGNAGE- budget allocation already in place to produce signage previously passed.

SWAP SHOP

- Entry way is a challenge; DPW wants to see traffic pattern in a snow/ice environment
- Signage- Swap Shop sign not finalized yet
- Volunteers- will be invited to Committee's December meeting to discuss role of Swap Shop going forward and to welcome their opinion.

GREEN DAY IDEAS to be forwarded to Wendy

COMMITTEE CHARTER RENEWAL QUESTION

- Committee serves at the request of the Board of Selectmen. Question raised whether to apply for a one year renewal or consider our task(s) as completed. After considerable discussion about 'mission-creep' and of caution not to over-do things, consensus was reached that several initiatives implemented over the past two years have not yet sufficiently rooted in the community's consciousness to have reached the point of self-sustainability. A motion was made to apply for a one year extension; motion was seconded and passed unanimously based on:

- Initial charter for Committee listed two goals, both of which have been realized:

- Implementation of Single Stream Recycling (SSR)
- Re-organization and re-branding of The Transfer Station as The Recycling Center

- Charter extension made sense for both short-term and long-term goals:

- Build 'Institutional memory' of nascent concepts now in place
- Positive financial impact on budget of DPW has been strong and likely to improve
- Schools ability to self-sustain both recycling and educational efforts unlikely without assistance
- RCAC Tours by 3rd Graders has been very beneficial (DPW Director Ed Gentile reiterated Safety is primary consideration, education second)
- Promote Earth Day with educational efforts with possible inclusion of town-sponsored events
- Management of the Facebook and Twitter accounts now in place
- Promote the textile recycling program which is still under-utilized
- More harmonious structure of Swap Shop operations (noted by Dan Dolcetti)
- Perception by residents that an appointed Town Committee lends gravitas to suggestions
- Response from haulers that they feel they have a forum to discuss issues with Town

- CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY (CRRA) experience questioned long term efficacy of SSR vs refuse-reduce- reuse- recycle will likely present significant procedural issues
- Community awareness of impact (financial and environmental) of initiatives still vague
- Possible consideration of compost initiatives
- Chairman Flaherty also noted First Selectman Jayme Stevenson likely to support extension if group is ready willing and able to continue for one more year.
- Dan Dolcetti encouraged to formally apply to join committee as the Swap Shop is an integral component of the Recycling Center (under assumption Charter will be renewed).

No other business coming before the Committee, meeting adjourned at 1:10

Next Meeting- Wednesday 10th December 12:00 Noon- Room 206 Town Hall