

**MINUTES  
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING  
JANUARY 28, 2013**

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TOWN OF GREENSBORO, NC**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Regular Representative Town Meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Donna Rajczewski, Town Clerk, who announced that District I has two new members: Christa McNamara (formerly with District VI), and Christopher (Kip) Hall who were then duly sworn.

Upon Roll Call, the following members were present:

From District I, there were 11 members present, 2 absent.  
From District II, there were 14 members present, 3 absent.  
From District III, there were 13 members present, 3 absent.  
From District IV, there were 14 members present, 2 absent.  
From District V, there were 11 members present, 6 absent.  
From District VI, there were 11 members present, 2 absent.

The absentees from District I were: Henderson, van derKieft  
The absentee from District II were: Bacon, Hilton, Keith  
The absentees from District III were: Camuti, Coyle, Ferretti.  
The absentees from District IV were: Millar, Schoonmaker.  
The absentees from District V were: Adiletta, Fead, LeHan, Lublin, Martens, Russell.  
The absentees from District VI were: Ball, McLean

The Moderator, Sarah C. Seelye, assumed the Chair. She indicated that the RTM would not be acting on Agenda item #5 (Resolution 13-1) at this meeting. The agenda was then accepted by universal consent.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2012 STATE OF THE  
TOWN MEETING**

The minutes were accepted by universal consent.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements took the form of “housekeeping” issues. The Moderator announced that the Town Budget books, usually distributed to all RTM members in late April, early May, by District Chairs, will be distributed on request only. The full budget will be posted to the website, but if someone wishes a hard copy, the Town Clerk must be notified by March 1.

The Moderator explained a bit about SWRPA (South Western Regional Planning Authority), an agency focusing on transportation, housing, community development, environment and open spaces. She encouraged members to take a look at their website. She further indicated that she would like to have a SWRPA representative address the RTM in the future, perhaps in March.

Mrs. Seelye then noted the Town Plan of Conservation and Development, which according to State Statute must be updated every 10 years. The Planning & Zoning Department will begin focusing their efforts on the project this Fall.

The Board of Selectmen will continue the Budget Process with a meeting on Saturday, February 2 with various Department heads.

The announcements were concluded with a reminder about the CCM presentation on Parliamentary Procedures to be held here in Darien on February 28, 2013. Interested RTM members should register to attend.

Dennis Maroney, District III and chair of the RTM Education Committee named the members of the Education Committee and presented an update on the Board of Education budget concerns. He indicated that a 4.07% increase is on the table, and that a Public Hearing will be held Tuesday, February 5 at 7:00 PM. Two budget items mentioned that may have impact, are 1. generators for many of the schools, and 2. the removal of the "pay to participate" program at the high school. Enrollment concerns, including the effect of new housing developments on the student population, continue to play a role. There has already been an increase of some 730 students (18%) in the past ten years (2002 – 2012). And heightened awareness of security in our schools has precipitated much discussion with varying plans being considered.

Dot Kelly, chair of the Transfer Station Advisory Committee, then took the podium. Her remarks and list of single stream recycling materials are attached. The Moderator reminded members that some recycling is mandatory. Ms. Kelly then fielded a few questions highlighting that recyclables don't have to be separated and should not be bagged, but remain loose.

District IV's Jim Cameron, Chair of the CT Metro-North Commuter Rail Council updated the group on the activities of the Council and referenced the 2012 Annual Report. Mr. Cameron's comments and the Annual Report are attached. Of particular concern is the proposed razing of the CDOT owned garage at the Stamford train station. A short Q & A followed.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Donna E. Rajczewski  
Town Clerk & Temporary Secretary

## 1/28/2013 Transfer Station Advisory Committee report by Dot Kelly

Thank you for inviting me to speak to the RTM on the efforts of the Transfer Station Advisory Committee. The Committee was formed by the Selectmen on October 15, 2012.

It's members are:

Dot Kelly, Chairman

Carolyn Bayne

Susan Cameron

Craig Flaherty

David Genovese

Connie Melvin

Allison Stolar (RTM Public Works)

Ex-officio Members:

Finley Wetmore, High School Student Representative

Bob Steeger and Darren Oustafine Public Works Department

Jayne Stevenson (our fabulous first selectman)

Sarah Seelye (the moderator of your august institution)

Interested public members that are full participants and very valuable:

Mark Adiletta (RTM Public Works)

Steve Anderson (RTM Public Works)

Peter Eenkema Van Dyk

Terry Gaffney

Reese Hutchison

Chris Oser (City Carting – contracted to operate the single stream recycling and MSW operations)

Debbie Parnon

Ed Sweeney, and last but certainly not least,

Wendy Ward

They are a terrific, fun, hardworking group! Want to help? Feel free to join us.

What have we been doing since we were formed 3 months ago?

The Transfer Station Advisory Committee is charged with

- Developing a public education program emphasizing single stream recycling and other items that can be recycled, but are not single stream.
  - Examining the business model of the transfer station
  - Evaluating other recycling initiatives (e.g. composting, paint, textiles)
- We've investigated how the Transfer Station has changed in the last 5 years. We've studied the costs, revenues, and how our neighboring towns manage their recycling and solid waste operations. We are now further studying specific areas so that our committee can report to the Selectmen with options and recommendations.

- Specifically to single stream, we've figured out what materials are acceptable in the expanded definition of single stream that public works instituted at the Transfer Station in May 2012. That is the "Detailed List of YES you can! Single Stream Recycling" that was emailed to RTM members this morning and will be available on the Transfer Station Advisory Committee section of the Town of Darien website.
- We've developed a hauler and resident single stream implementation and education plan which we are presenting to the Selectmen next Monday to kick off improved single stream recycling in Darien.
- As our committee has studied single stream and the activities at the "Transfer Station" also affectionately called "the dump" we believe the Darien Recycling Center is a more appropriate moniker for the materials managed at Ledge Road. Even the trash sent off for disposal is recycled by creating energy. So, why not start now - -thus, I'll be using the term Recycling Center.

Overview:

The committee has been very pleased with the positive improvements that have occurred since our contract with CRRA ended and we entered into a contract with City Carting to operate many of the areas of the Darien Recycling Center.

Increasing single stream volume will help reduce our subsidy of the recycling center because we get a modest revenue for single stream, and save the cost of disposal of MSW at the trash to energy plant, for a savings of about \$100 per ton. Thus besides the improved environmental benefit from recycling over burning, there is an economic benefit as well.

Regarding revenues - Our public works department has for the last 15 years tried to set prices for haulers at about the cost of managing the material. Thus haulers and commercial users pay per ton for all materials that are tipped at the Recycling Center, except for single stream recycling which has no tip fee. For residential users, we've had two prices for recycling center permits, which gives stickers for all cars associated with the family; \$34 if the family has a trash hauler and \$110 if the family does not have a hauler.

Our statistics show that almost 50% of our households do not purchase any recycling center permit. Considering that we now have an active Swap shop, brush and leaf recycling, battery recycling, electronics recycling, motor oil recycling and appliance recycling in addition to single stream recycling, it's not clear how those households are managing. Just a show of hands - - how many in the audience have a Darien recycling center permit? (The response was almost every person in the room.)

Let me talk specifically to single stream:

One huge change over the past year is that we now, as of May 2012, recycle paper, glass, cardboard, plastic and metal as a single stream and the list of acceptable materials is dramatically increased.

This list was emailed to you and some hard copies are available.

The important take away is that basically all paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and metal is recyclable. Single stream recycling is for those smaller items. Large metal or plastic items can be recycled directly at the recycling center.

So the first question is "Is the material a paper, cardboard, plastic, glass or metal?" The next important requirement is that it be loose, empty and only lightly soiled.

It needs to be loose so that it can be sorted at the single stream recycling plant. It needs to be empty, because its original contents are probably not "paper, cardboard, plastic, glass or metal". And it must only be lightly soiled. This allows judgment as to the type and amount of contamination.

Example: Pizza box. Peanut butter jar. A pizza box that has the oily waxed paper removed, but still has some oil splotches on the cardboard box is great for single stream. A plastic peanut butter jar, on the other hand, typically has too much, hard to remove, peanut butter still in the jar to make it suitable for single stream.

Communities that have gone to single stream recycling, like Greenwich, Westport and Stamford, have seen decreases in MSW and dramatic increases in recycling. In these communities, the typical homeowner has one garbage pick-up a week and one single stream pick-up a week.

So the first steps of our committee's work has been done. We've now almost finalized the list of single stream materials and would appreciate that you let us know if the list is confusing and how we can make it more clear. Please call or email me, as chair of the committee, if you have comments. Dot Kelly 324-6996 or my email, [dot@dkelly.org](mailto:dot@dkelly.org).

Have you heard the one about the bin at the recycling center with a sign that said "Empty water bottles here"? Pretty soon, . . . the bin was full of water!

We realize signage and education needs to be done right. . .and we can use all the help we can get.

Feel free to also give us your view on referring to the Public Works materials management operation at Ledge Road (which includes single stream recycling bins, electronics recycling, battery recycling, leaf composting and brush collection, the construction and demolition debris area, the Swap shop, the clothes recycling bins, the municipal solid waste hopper/compactor, the single stream hopper/compactor and the scrap metal collection area) as the Darien Recycling Center.

However, recycling is not the only facet of environmentally thoughtful consumption. As one of our members, Darien Environmental Group president, Connie Melvin, likes to say, "there are four key prongs to environmentally improved materials management: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle." We are lucky to have Connie chairing our sub-committee on education.

Next steps: On February 4<sup>th</sup> we are presenting a recommendation to the Selectmen for education of our citizenry so that residents, whether they bring their recyclables to the Recycling Center directly or use one of the 5 Darien haulers, are better informed about the large number of materials that can be recycled. At a meeting with Darien's haulers last week, our haulers all confirmed that they are picking up single stream recycling now. Our haulers asked that we suggest you call your hauler if you have any questions.

On February 1<sup>st</sup> Public Works is improving the process for haulers to tip single stream at the recycling center. One of the two compactor bays will be designated for single stream, which will mean the single stream process for haulers will be automated and dry. This is a huge operational advance for single stream management at the recycling center.

On the week of Earth Day, starting on Monday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the actual official Earth Day, the residential haulers will be shifting their schedules so that they are generally picking up one day for garbage and one day for recyclables. There will be more information about this transition directly from your haulers.

Additionally, under the leadership of Allison Stolar, as subcommittee chair of the recycling center operations sub-committee, we are preparing a report for the Selectmen about some economic and operational options our town may want to consider that include managing fluorescent light bulbs and unusable textiles, as well as economic alternatives to reduce the subsidy required by the recycling center.

The third prong of our work is to engage with our business community to help them utilize single stream recycling to comply with the state recycling requirements and to dramatically reduce the amount of commercial waste that is thrown out.

Thank you for allowing our committee to update the RTM on our progress. We thank you for your willingness to serve the town as elected officials.



# **SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING**

## **A Detailed List of YES, you can!**

### **KNOW BEFORE YOU THROW:**

**Paper, Cardboard, Plastic, Glass and Metal in the same bin!**

**Recyclables MUST be LOOSE, EMPTY and only LIGHTLY SOILED.**

#### **PAPER & CARDBOARD**

Aseptic containers (e.g. juice boxes)  
Bags (brown, white & colored)  
Blueprints or paper rolls  
Books (paper and hard back)  
**Boxes (all types –cereal, snack, gift & shoe)**  
**Corrugated cardboard**  
Egg cartons  
File folders, index cards and other cardstock  
Frozen food, ice cream & frozen juice containers  
**Junk mail**  
Kraft envelopes (all colors)  
**Magazines & catalogs**

Milk & juice cartons  
**Newspapers & inserts**  
**Office paper (white & colored)**  
Phone books  
Pizza boxes (remove contaminated liner)  
Ream paper wrappers  
Shredded paper  
Spiral bound notebooks  
Stickers and address label sheets  
Take out containers (separate metal handles)  
Wrapping Paper

#### **PLASTIC**

If it has one of these: , it belongs in single stream.  
All #1\*, #2\*, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10 plastic  
Also including -  
Bags (loose)  
Bottles & Jugs  
Bubble wrap  
Buckets/tubs/flower pots  
Caps, tops, & pull tops  
Cellophane & other transparent films  
CDs  
Egg cartons (plastic or Styrofoam)  
Jugs (e.g. milk, juice)  
Laundry detergent jugs

Pill bottles  
Lotion & toothpaste tubes Empty only  
Motor oil containers Empty only  
Plastic toys  
Rigid plastic "clam shell" packaging  
Six-pack holders  
Styrofoam  
Styrofoam peanuts  
Utensils, plates, cups, & straws  
Vegetable and produce bags (loose)  
Yogurt & fruit cup containers  
Ziploc bags & Tupperware containers

#### **METAL**

Aerosol cans Empty only  
Aluminum foil  
**Cans**  
Foil tops of containers  
**Food containers**

3-ring binders  
Hangers  
Jar lids & bottle caps  
Metal cookware and utensils (Teflon included)  
Paint cans, Empty only

#### **GLASS**

**Bottles & Jars with or without label**  
Pane glass

Drinking glasses

**Bold is mandatory recycling for CT State DEEP**

## **ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN SINGLE STREAM** (only Paper, Cardboard, Plastic, Glass and Metal are possible)

Chip bags, candy wrappers, Power bar wrappers (Mylar)  
Contaminated items (eg diapers, sanitary products, paper towels, tissues, napkins)  
Ink jet cartridges  
Light bulbs  
Mirrors  
Mylar products (tough, non-transparent film or wrap found in helium balloons and chip bags – look for shiny interior)  
Razors and needles  
Paper with lots of tape or glue  
Photographic paper (chemically treated – environmental concern)  
Pyrex (Operational issue because of the high melting glass)  
Tyvek envelopes (e.g. Fed Ex)  
Wax, wax-coated paper, or waxed-coated plastic that is peelable (e.g. Dixie Cups, candles)

## **ITEMS ACCEPTED FOR RECYCLING AT DARIEN RECYCLING CENTER:**

Appliances  
Batteries (all types)  
Clothing (usable)  
Construction & Demolition Debris (post sorted for recycling as possible)  
Electronics  
Lawn & garden debris  
**Motor oil**  
Plastics too large for recycling bin (e.g. play toys, patio chairs)  
Refrigerators, air conditioners, dehumidifiers (Freon fee required)  
All Scrap metal too large for recycling bin  
Reusable items – SWAP shop

Note: Efforts are underway to include light bulbs and textiles (eg torn clothing, bedding, shoes) to be recycled at the Darien Recycling Center

## **PLACE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE**

Trash – any item or material that cannot be recycled  
Items contaminated by food/grease/chemicals/non-recyclables

## **OTHER**

Drug Collection Days  
Household Hazardous Waste Days

**COMMENTS TO RTM: Jim Cameron (District 4) and Chairman of the CT Metro-North Rail Commuter Council**

Explain role of Commuter Council: all members commuters, appointed by lawmakers to 4 year terms. Council now 26 years old. Zero budget. Council serves as eyes/ears/voice of commuters to CDOT and MNRR.

**New M8 rail cars:**

- 186 cars delivered, 166 in service. New cars arriving at rate of 10 per month. Built by Kawasaki in Lincoln NE.
- Cars are running well with few problems. Commuters love them.
- 50% chance of riding new cars in rush hour, 63% chance on weekends.

**Stamford Garage:**

- Old garage slated for demolition. CDOT sought private-public partnership RFP from developers for Transit Oriented Development of land. Existing 727 space garage to be replaced by new 1000 space garage, but possibly not on same site but ¼ mile away. Developers may build 1 million sq ft office / residential tower, itself requiring 2100 parking spaces.
- CDOT owns most stations and parking lots, including Darien and Noroton Ht. What if CDOT comes to Darien suggesting similar development? Town should be proactive in telling CDOT what we want.
- Predict “commuter Diaspora” during 3+ year construction with Stamford commuters seeking parking in “our” lots.

**Questions and Answers**



## 2012 Annual Report

# CT METRO-NORTH COMMUTER RAIL COUNCIL

## News and Highlights of the Council's Advocacy for Rail Commuters in 2012

### Stamford Garage

As CDOT moved forward with plans to demolish the older portion of the parking garage adjacent to the Stamford train station (727 spaces), the Council pushed for reconstruction and expansion of parking at the current, convenient location. CDOT refused, and sought proposals from private developers for a replacement garage up to 1/4 mile from the station. The developers' proposals remained secret, so the Council pushed for public hearings, persuading Governor Malloy to appoint a task force of private citizens (including a member of the Commuter Council) to work with CDOT as it reviews the proposals. A final decision is due in February.

### Communications

The need for improved customer communications, especially during service disruptions, has been an ongoing concern of the Council, and 2012 saw substantial progress from Metro-North both in timeliness and content of information. Riders can now choose among many alternatives including website, e-mail, texting and social media in addition to on-board and station PA announcements.

### Fare Increases

By legislative action, three annual 5+% fare increases were scheduled for 2012, 2013 and 2014, in part to help pay for the new M8 cars. But when proceeds of the 2012 fare hike were designated for non-railroad spending, the Council protested, characterizing the fare increase as a form of tax on commuters. The Council feels fare hikes should be spent on the railroad.

### Ticket Refunds

Thanks to efforts by the Council, Metro-North reversed a 2010 decision to reduce the validity period for tickets. Single trip tickets are now valid for 60 days (up from 14 days), but ten-trip tickets still remain valid for only six months instead of the previous policy of one year.

### Quiet Cars

For more than five years the Council has been asking Metro-North to designate one car per train as a cellphone-free "Quiet Car". In 2012 the railroad finally agreed and now each rush-hour train has such a car, offering a "Quiet CALMmute" for those who'd like it.

### New M8 Rail Cars

Delivery of the new M8 rail cars continues with 174 of the 400 cars on order now delivered. The cars are performing well with only minor complaints from riders.

### OUR MANDATE

To be the eyes, ears and voice of our fellow commuters on Metro-North and Shore Line East railroads. We are your advocates for ever improving rail service. Appointed by the Governor and legislative leaders, our members are commuters like you. We serve four-year terms without compensation. We meet monthly with officials from Metro-North and the CT Dept of Transportation to address complaints, raise suggestions and share rider feedback. We operate on a budget of zero tax dollars.

### MEMBERS

Jim Cameron, *Chair* (Darien)  
Terri Cronin, *Vice Chair* (Norwalk)  
Rodney Chabot, *Past Chair* (New Canaan)  
Tim Beeble, *Secretary* (Bethel)  
Roger Cirella (Ansonia)  
Laura Cordes (New London)  
John Davis\* (Stamford)  
Mitchell Fuchs (Fairfield)  
Jim Gildea\* (Derby)  
John Hartwell (Westport)  
Dave Hendricks\* (Stamford)  
Bob Jelley (Guilford)  
Jeffrey Maron (Stamford)  
Sue Prosi (Stratford)  
Luke Schnirring (Norwalk)

*\*new member in 2012*

### CONTACT US

**Web:** [www.trainweb.org/CT](http://www.trainweb.org/CT)

#### E-Mail:

CTRailCommuterCouncil@gmail.com

**Twitter:** @CTRailCommuters

#### Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/groups/CTRailCommuters](http://www.facebook.com/groups/CTRailCommuters)

### JOIN OUR EMAIL ALERT LIST

To learn more about the Council's work, visit our website or join our Email Alert list. Send your name, email and home station to: CTRailCommuterCouncil@gmail.com

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## **2012 Annual Report: CT METRO-NORTH COMMUTER RAIL COUNCIL**

### **Highlights of the Council's Advocacy for Rail Commuters in 2012**

*(continued from page 1)*

#### **East Side Access**

The Council toured the massive \$7+ billion East Side Access construction site under Grand Central Terminal where some Long Island RR trains will arrive starting in 2019. The Council continues to express its concerns to Metro-North about the impact of tens of thousands of new daily riders on the already crowded terminal and adjacent Lexington Avenue subway line. The Council also urges MTA to make accommodation for Metro-North trains to service Penn Station as an offset.

#### **Expanded Service**

Responding to a request from the Council, hourly off-peak service is now available at Southport, Greens Farms, East Norwalk and Rowayton stations, which previously had service every two hours. Weekend service was also expanded on the entire line.

#### **Passenger Pledge**

Following the breakdown of a train near Westport in July 2011, the Council worked closely with Fairfield County legislators to draft a "Passenger Bill of Rights". Metro-North modified the document and rolled out a system-wide "Passenger Pledge", for the first time delineating the kind of service that passengers deserve. The Pledge is now posted at every station and in most rail cars.

#### **Customer Satisfaction Survey**

Many years ago the Council created the first-ever survey of rider satisfaction. Now jointly administered by the Council and Metro-North, the survey gives the railroad important feedback on areas of needed improvement. The 2012 survey reflected increased satisfaction over 2011 results thanks to new cars and better service.

### **Ongoing Issues of Concern for the Council in 2013**

#### **Station Parking**

Most stations in southwest Connecticut have waiting lists for annual parking permits of 5 to 8 years. More must be done to expand parking and access to the trains.

#### **Ticket Collections**

The Council handles dozens of complaints from riders who see other riders' tickets go uncollected on the trains.

#### **Ticket Refunds**

When service is cancelled due to bad weather, commuters should be given refunds on tickets they purchased but could not use.

#### **Crowding on Trains**

Despite having more cars in its fleet, increased ridership has again led to serious crowding problems on many trains. More cars should be added to trains to assure that every passenger gets a seat.

#### **Expanded Service**

With an expanded fleet of rail cars, The Council encourages Metro-North to add more trains more often, especially on the under-served Danbury and Waterbury branch lines.