

Town of Darien
Advisory Committee on Sustainability
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2023
Meeting Held Virtually *Via* “GoToMeeting”

Members Present: Carolyn Bayne, Kathy Finnegan, Christine LaJaunie, Cliff VanVorhees, Amanda Craig, Dan Dolcetti

Also Present: Ed Gentile (Director of Public Works.)

12:06 pm Call to Order with a quorum

- **Approve Past Minutes**

- Minutes from the January 11th meeting were approved with minor modifications.

- **Summary of Sewer System presentation**

- The sewer system is the single most important infrastructure in Darien with 81 miles of piping with 14 pump stations. Wipes and dental floss cause clogs and should never be flushed. Fats, oil and grease should be put in the food waste composting or in the trash. Otherwise, they clog up the system.

- The full meeting is on Darien TV 79 listed under inside town hall on 1/20/23 and on Darien Recycling Center Social media channels.

- Sump pumps are illegal to connect to the sewer system and they end up having clean groundwater that gets treated and costs the town.

- **Recycling Updates**

- Presentation to RTM, Recycling ‘Right’ Jan 23, 2023

- Our focus is to get more food out of the waste stream this year via food waste recycling.

- Food Scraps

- For December 2022, 3.43 tons were diverted from the waste stream and in January 2023 it was 4.17 which is a bit higher than average.

- Swap Shop

- Subcommittee to support Dan & volunteers, ie: volunteer agreement, RecycleCT wizard, etc

- We are developing a volunteer training and agreement as well as guidelines for the sorting and placement of items to present to Public works and to be approved by the town.

- Dan has instructed the volunteers to make better determinations on the shape of the larger pieces coming in. If they are not in great shape they are instructed to not accept them.

- We are working on signs that shall be posted outside the swap shop to remind the residents of the rules of the swap shop as well as what items should or should not be dropped off at the shop (acceptable items list).
 - A motion was made to forward the guideline document to Ed Gentile, Director of public works for approval.
 - Communications
 - Internal (Town of Darien Communications)
 - Our town communication manager has been actively promoting the food scrap program by including the brochure and talking points on how much MSW gets thrown away and how using the FSP could help alleviate that for the town.
 - The Darien Garden club did a presentation on the food scrap program and it went very well and generated a lot of interest among the participants.
 - External Publications
 - Amanda is working with 2 magazines to showcase our committee's work via informational articles. Deadlines and possible article topics were discussed.
 - Other organizations, possible collaboration with DNC
 - Focus in 2023 –
 - Expand food scraps, Investigate leaf blower ordinance, events.....
 - To be discussed at the next meeting.

Public Comment

- A motion was made and approved to allow for public comment at the end of the meeting.
 - Ms. Luz Elena Bueno of 123 Hoyt Street (via go-to-meeting) expressed concerns about swap shop volunteers and residents selling items from the swap shop for profit and bothering shoppers who frequent the shop. Her concerns will be referred to the appropriate town officials.

1:02 pm Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Christine LaJaunie, Secretary