

Minutes

Easton Energy & Environment Task Force

Regular meeting, Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Remote meeting via Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

Present: Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Lise Fleurette, Bobby Morganti

Absent: Katie Callahan, Deidre Williams

Also attending: Joan Winter, Abbie Winter, Nanette Dewester

Guests: Carolyn Bayne, Pippa Bell

Cathy convened the meeting at 7:32

Food scrap recycling program discussion w/ representatives from Darien and Westport:

Carolyn and Pippa discussed their respective programs in Darien and Westport

Question from Nanette: did they reach out to students at the schools?

Pippa (Westport) says that a teacher at the elementary school, who saw a tremendous amount of food waste at school, is how the program in town began; this year all schools but one are to start recycling the scraps; Carolyn (Darien) says that they didn't have any contact with the schools yet, but had hoped to start soon

Cathy asked if they have figured out how to become cost efficient with the program:

- An increase of about 50% - to 1 ½ tons of waste removal - will be necessary to make the program pay for itself
- Need to view this program as a way to offset the future costs of waste disposal because our trash-to-energy plants are ageing out and failing; the costs required to manage waste is increasing and will continue on an upward trend
- Costs will go up based on how far CT will need to transport its garbage

Cathy suggested the possibility of using a grant to get this program off to a start; Joan offered to check with DEEP on potential grants; Joan, Abbie and Cathy offered to be on a sub-committee for this; Nanette also interested; Lise offered to check with Sustainable group for suggestions/thoughts

Planning for 3-in-1 recycling on October 24th:

Date has changed to October 24th to coordinate with the Police Drug Take-Back Day; the event will be a 3-in-1 event that includes the EMS cans and bottles returnables drive

Cathy requested we all take some time to be there for this event

Also being held on the 24th: Trumbull will host a Hazardous Waste Day

To-dos for this Easton event will be all about public awareness:

- Recycling article in The Courier
- Email blast to our subscribers
- Post to the EEETF town page, social media
- Fliers at Senior Center, Town Hall, EVS, Greiser's, Library, Post Office and ECC
- Ed Nagy will set out the sandwich boards

Updates

1. *Solar data: as of the meeting it was lower than expected (due to power outage); Bobby and Cathy met with a UI rep for help on validating the data; learned that more data, older bills going back to 2012, would need to be entered to get a baseline; once that is done the newer data will accurately reflect information we need (cost savings over time); Cathy has been sent the bills from older years to do this*
2. *Home Energy Solutions: Cathy reported that this program is free until the end of the year; the TF should find a way to encourage residents to take advantage of the program to encourage both cost and energy savings (social media, email blast, town page, Courier)*
3. *Recycling article submitted, should be published in the next couple of days*
4. *Grow Grant: Abbie discussed changes to the grant that are necessitated by the existence of the Home Energy Solutions*

Minutes from August

Motion to approve: Heidi. Second: Bobby. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn: Lise. Second: Bobby.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 9:10

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Armster, Secretary
10/5/20