

Minutes

Easton Energy & Environment Task Force

Regular meeting, Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Easton Town Hall, Conference Room A, 7:30 p.m.

Present: Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Katie Callahan, Lise Fleurette, Deidre Williams  
Also in attendance: Dana Ceva, Abbie Winter, Joan Winter  
Absent: Bobby Morganti, Zac Shortt (JBHS Liaison)

Special guest speaker: Jennifer Heaton-Jones, Executive Director of HRRRA (Housatonic Resource Recycling Association)

Cathy convened the meeting at 7:35

**Discussion with Jennifer Heaton-Jones:**

- HRRRA is a regional group that oversees licensing and compliance of CT recycling; also provides public education, outreach and information
- Working towards the "60% curbside participation by 2024" recycling goal; current participation rates range from about 15% to 30% by town
- Contamination in glass recycling is a MAJOR issue; glass processed at material recovery facilities is too contaminated with plastics and non-recyclables to be recycled; much of the glass is being transported out of state
- Returnables (bottles with deposit) ARE used/recycled in state
- Trying to get a bottle bill introduced for glass not currently under the returnables program, such as wine bottles
- In refuse, compostable organics are about 30% of overall weight
- Cost for towns and haulers is based upon weight, removing organics would reduce cost
- A new glass recycling company, Urban Mining, is opening in Beacon Falls, CT, in the spring of 2020; will require separating glass out of recycling bins at source (individual households); pilot glass separation programs are underway in the region; possible future option for Easton

TF followed the presentation with questions and further discussion on local implications.

Cathy will write a short notice for town residents, asking them to avoid placing glass returnables into recycling bins, and instead bring them to bottle return locations OR to Easton EMS (where they can be dropped off for donation). Information to be sent out via TF email list and social media.

**2020 Planning**

- Group discussed and refined goals and priorities for 2020.
- Group discussed options for reaching out to town entities for further input: some entities to be interviewed in person; others via survey only
- Discussed questions for survey. Abbie offered to help develop survey.
- Group discussed various options for information series, including:
  - Hosting events/speakers locally
  - Reaching out to existing Easton groups with regular meetings to inquire about sharing information when they meet

**Updates:**

- Solar: inverters being replaced; should be completed by end of January
- HKMS: no update
- No Idle sign: ECD felt not needed, other schools all have them (will double check at Barlow)
- Meeting on Easton Courier: planned launch of new paper (online only) in spring; TF will need to contribute content; first article on recycling do's/don'ts; will use to spread information, awareness, tips and events happening in or near town.

**Minutes: November, December**

- November minutes: motion to approve: Heidi; Second: Lise. All approved.
- December minutes: motion to approve: Deidre; second: Heidi. All approved.
- Heidi motioned to adjourn. Lise seconded.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Friday, January 17, 2020

Heidi Armster, Secretary