

Minutes

Easton Energy & Environment Task Force

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, February 19, 2020

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

Attendance: Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Katie Callahan, Lise Fleurette, Bobby Morganti, Deidre Williams

Also attending: Joan Winter, Abbie Winter, Zac Shortt, Ed Nagy

Special guest: Kristen Brown

Discussion with Kristen Brown from Waste Zero re SimpleRecycling and the SMART Program: (Kristen consults for different entities, including for CT DEEP)

SIMPLE program:

- Started 4 years ago: On average, 84 lbs of clothing/per person/per year is tossed out
- Idea is to recycle/repurpose clothing and keep it out of waste stream
- About 41 (give or take) CT municipalities currently participating
- CT Hubs: Stamford and New Britain
- Works with hauler by providing each driver with a tablet to record the addresses that have pink bags at the end of driveways, ready for pick up; this accomplished during the regular recycling pickup run, no additional action required from hauler/driver
- Later on that day, a SIMPLE truck will come to pick up all recorded pink bags

Collected material gets sorted into:

1. Savers, which can be sent to thrift stores for selling
2. Middle grade items go overseas to non-profits for distribution
3. A 3rd tier that is clearly damaged/torn is sent to recycling centers

Benefits/results:

- Totally free to the town, actually earns a small sum of \$40/ton; they encourage splitting earned cash with the hauler
- Simple Recycling does initial marketing and distributes bags to residents
- Local charity bins don't appear to lose donations
- Goodwill gets some exposure

Ed posed questions about the contract details. Contract reviewed and discussed; Kristen will send an updated contract for further review by the town's attorney; prepare to present to the BoS meeting in March if possible.

SMART program:

- Kristen introduced this "pay as you throw" program which has customers pay based on a unit of use, in this case the bag, vs. a flat monthly fee
- Reduces trash by about 44% in many towns
- Average home use is less than one bag, so the average customer saves money
- Will reduce the need for one of CT's old incinerators that will not last much longer
- Currently 2 CT towns use SMART: Stonington and Mansfield

Discussion mostly around the details of the SMART waste pick-up and hauling; q&a about logistics of working with our haulers because Easton has 4 different trash haulers and residents already pay them directly vs. other towns that have municipal trash pick up

April e-Recycling and Senior Center planning:

Zac and Bobby will work with Katie on organizing helping hands for e-recycling senior citizen pick up and for drop off date

Solar Ribbon Cutting event planning:

Cathy, Heidi, Lise will work on invites, logistics, speakers, timing

2020 plan: next steps on meetings and surveys

Survey monkey questions set-up complete, Abbie

Updates:

1. Solar: Phase I and II exceeded expectations in recent months; still have delays related to UI on work to be finished (inverter replacement)
2. HKMS, no update at this time, but expected soon
3. No Idle sign: Zac confirmed that Barlow wants a sign, Walter will install once we get one
4. Easton Courier submissions to be discussed: launch is Saturday, February 29, 10-12
5. Joan reported that she and Deidre had been to a recycling conference and wants to report next month on this; she also spoke with the manager of Oak Ridge, he will come speak to our group at one meeting; Sherill from DEEP will also come speak to us
6. Lise is the TF's appointee to the Sustainable CT Team

Group discussed using Town website and new Easton Courier to disseminate information on all of these topics

January minutes

Katie motioned to approve the minutes; Bobby seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn, Heidi. Second, Deidre. Cathy adjourned the meeting at 9:35

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Armster, Secretary
3/17/2020