

**Middletown Resource Recycling Commission
Meeting of June 27, 2016, Senior Center 1st floor**

Present: Monica Belyea, Bessie Bianco, Chantal Dearmitt, Darrell Gagnon, Harold Panciera, Debbie Stanley, Krishna Winston

Absent: Izzy Guy, Alison Johnson, Rebecca MacLachlan

1. CTO

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at approximately 7:10.

2. Minutes

At the beginning of the meeting, only 4 members were present, so approval of the minutes for the May meeting was deferred until the next meeting. Three members arrived somewhat later, but the meeting was already well under way, so the minutes remained deferred.

3. Swap Shack Schedule

June 29: Krishna
July 2: Chantal
July 6: Monica
July 13: Harold
July 16: Krishna
July 20: Harold
July 27: Bessie
Aug. 3: Harold
Aug. 6: Krishna
Aug. 10: Debbie
Aug. 17: Bessie
Aug. 20: Chantal
Aug. 22: Next meeting of Commission

Chantal stressed the need for signage indicating that furniture should not be deposited at the Swap Shack.

4. Chair's Report

Krishna reported that on Wednesday the hoped-for trip to the non-toxically maintained athletic fields in Branford was scheduled. Participants would include members of the 21st-Century Parks Committee, the Common Council, and Ecoin.

5. Harold Panciera's Report

Harold noted that in retirement he would be working to improve recycling in the schools and compliance with recycling ordinances by businesses in town. His long

acquaintance with custodians and principals would enable him to to gain a hearing and help the schools both comply with recycling ordinances and integrate good practices into the curriculum.

6. The Future of the Lisbon Trash-to-Energy Plant

Monica, who serves on the Sanitation Commission, reported that a new contract had just been concluded with Dainty Rubbish for transporting the City's waste to Lisbon. The original contract covering the City's relationship to the plant has been found, but its provisions are confusing. ECRRA, the Eastern Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority, whose sole member is Middletown, will have to decide the fate of the plant, which Middletown now owns, by 2020.

7. Blue Earth Composting

Monica reported that Middlesex Hospital was working with Blue Earth to have its suitable organic waste collected for composting, a welcome development.

8. The Open Air Market, August 28 at the Wadsworth Mansion

Krishna asked members of the Commission to let Kim know if they were available to staff a station. Actively engaging the public in discussions of recycling, composting, waste reduction, etc. would be the priority. Signage to catch the attention of passersby would be essential (e.g., "Ask me about . . .").

9. Priorities if Additional Funding Available

The members discussed the following ideas suggested at the Commission Retreat:

- Construction of station for special recyclables at City Hall
- Organizing a Repair Café, possibly using as resources YouTube instruction videos, Adult Education instructors, and local volunteers (e.g., Sew Fine owner Mike). Looking at how other communities handled Repair Cafés would save time and energy. Site: Remington Rand building suggested.
- Recycling containers for schools (Board of Education should provide support!)
- Promotion of composting at schools, possibly involving the VoAg program
- Focus on improving diversion rates
- Recycling containers for parks

The following were identified as priorities:

- Recycling station at City Hall
- Bottle-filler at City Hall, coupled with enforcement of the ban on bottled water
- Recycling carts for schools
- Push for composting

It was suggested that a push for recycling containers in parks and at athletic fields be combined with the recently bonded renovation of existing parks and fields and the creation of new fields.

10. The next meeting will take place on August 22.

The café at the Senior Center provided a pleasant venue, though some members found the air conditioning excessive.