

Middletown Resource Recycling Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
September 26, 2016

Members Present: Krishna Winston, Darrell Gagnon, Debbie Stanley, Monica Belyea.

Members Not Present: Rebecca MacLachlan, Chantal DeArmitt, Harold Panciera, Izzy Guy, Alison Johnson.

Others Present: Laurie Rapp, Kim O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm. The minutes of the June 27, 2016 meeting were accepted as presented.

Laurie Rapp was introduced during the public comment portion of the meeting. Laurie works at Farm Hill School and is interested in recycling. She wanted to get more information on the Commission. Ms. Winston explained what the Commission does and how she could get involved. Ms. Stanley said one of the Commissions she is on just finished a brochure explaining what that commission did. She thought it might be a good project for the Recycling Commission.

Ms. O'Rourke said she asked again about the cardboard compactor at the Recycling Center. Ms. Winston said she mentioned it at the Public Works Commission. Mr. Russo said they have the parts and the mechanics have it on their schedule.

Ms. O'Rourke reported that she is still waiting for information on DEEP Grants. Money should be coming for various waste reduction projects and for the waste reduction consultant. Part of the money will be used for bottle filler station(s) in the municipal building and a more attractive recycling station for the miscellaneous items.

The CT WRAP program is proceeding slowly. Most recently the group held a webinar on recycling plastic bags and film at municipal transfer stations. The problem, Ms. O'Rourke said, is that no processing centers in the area take the film. So until the film can be accepted somewhere, it doesn't make sense for the transfer station to take it. She hopes they do offer more information and support for the retail take back programs.

The automated recycling (single stream) in the Sanitation District is going well. All the carts have been distributed. In July garbage tonnage was down by 80 tons. Most people seem happy with the new carts.

City Hall has begun composting. Ms. O'Rourke said they are collecting food scraps from the break room. A local farmer has been taking the food scraps for his personal compost, but this month she will be installing a compost bin at City Hall and the food scraps will go directly into that to make compost.

Chairman's Report: Ms. Winston announced 2 events put on by the Jonah Center. One will be Oct. 4th on Open Space. The second will be at the end of the month.

She also announced that there is a meeting on Thursday at 7:00pm to discuss the multi use trail. There will be a presentation on the design plans.

Swap Shack Schedule

Wed. 9/28	Izzy
Sat 10/1	Krishna
Wed 10/5	Alison
Sat 10/8	Open
Wed 10/12	Debbie
Sat 10/15	Monica
Wed 10/19	Izzy
Sat 10/22	Krishna (if no one else can)

Ms. O'Rourke will send the list to the absent members to see who can fill in the blank spots.

Open Air Market : Members discussed the open air market. By having trash monitors/educators at the station, we reduced the amount of trash significantly. It made a difference to have people stop and think about what they were throwing away. However, there were some problems at the very end. The recycling dumpster got full and apparently the person transporting the materials put the recycling in the garbage container. Next year we might want to think about using 90 gallon carts for the recycling. Then they don't have to be dumped into anything and there's no room for error.

Household Hazardous Waste: The haz waste line started out long and the vendor never got caught up. Members felt there was a lot of paint and we should do more to promote the paintcare program. Members asked if it was possible to collect paint at our recycling center. Ms. O'Rourke said she would look into it. Members also suggested handing paint disposal information out at the recycling center.

The Commission asked Ms. O'Rourke to talk to Bill Russo about improving signage at the Recycling Center and fixing the cardboard compactor.

Fire Extinguishers: Mr. Gagnon said he followed up on the fire extinguisher disposal. He said Roybal will take the old extinguishers back. If they have a metal top, they can be refilled. If they have a plastic top, they cannot be.

Park Recycling: A discussion ensued about improving recycling in the parks. Ms. O'Rourke said this was something Mr. Panciera has raised and is willing to work on. Members volunteered to visit various parks and see if any recycling containers were available with the garbage cans. Members volunteered to visit various locations and report back on what was there for garbage and recycling.

The Recycling Commission was asked to participate in a couple different Halloween events, but no one was available.

Ms. O'Rourke said America Recycles Day was coming up on Nov. 15 and the group should decide if they want to do anything.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim O'Rourke
Recycling Coordinator